

# Library and Archives Special Acquisitions

By Bart Lee, K6VK, CHRS Archivist and Fellow, AWA Fellow

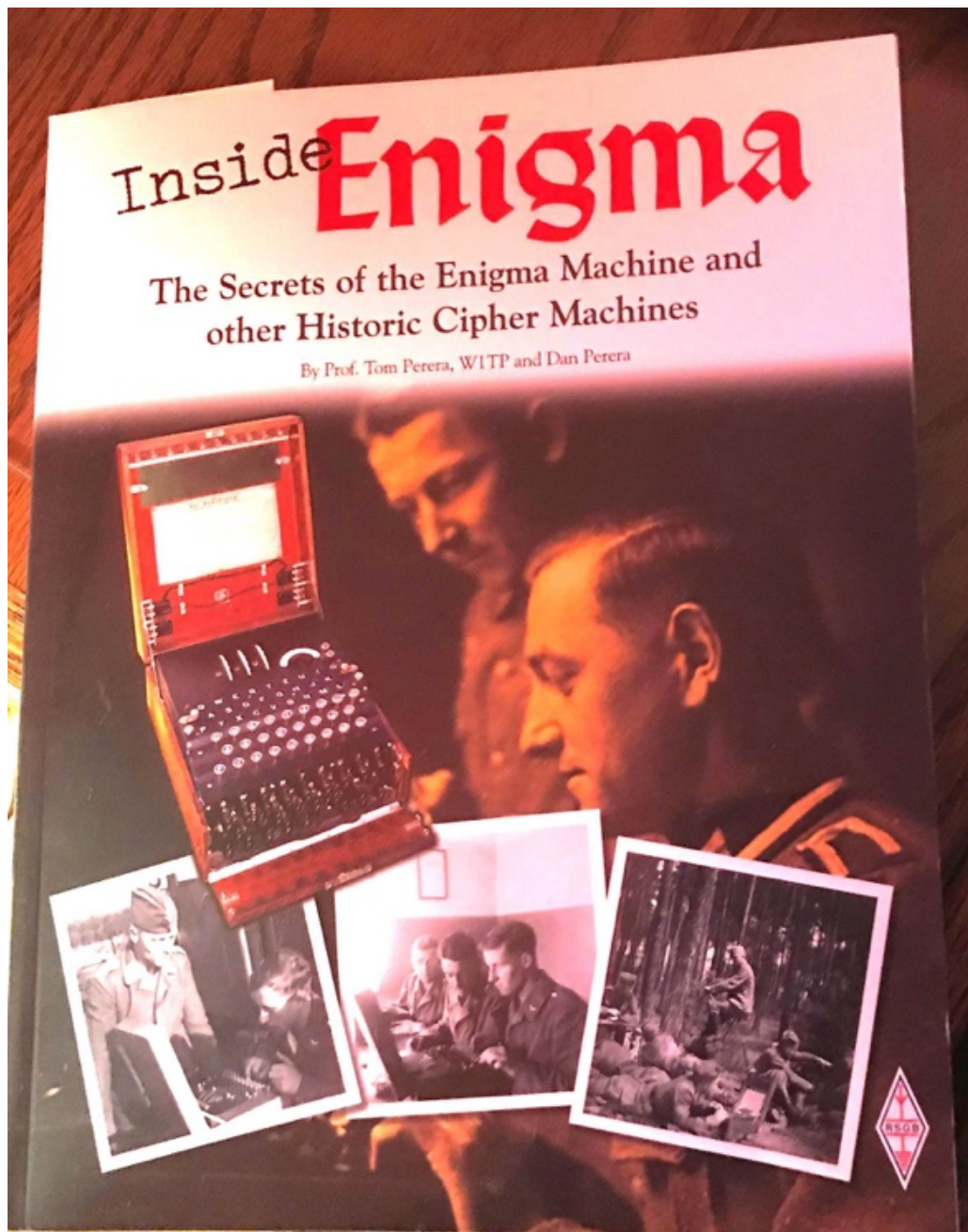
This note summarizes recent (as of 2020) special acquisitions to the library and archives of new publications and historically important items.

And thanks to Jon Winchell for a generous donation for library purposes that has permitted some of the recent library acquisitions about world-wide impacts of radio in 20th Century history.

Two donors have provided the library with important communications intelligence books, to go into the library's COMINT collection CHRS inherited from Jim Maxwell, W6CF.

CHRS friend Professor Tom Perera, W1TP, AWA has donated to the library a signed copy of his second edition of: **INSIDE ENIGMA: The Secrets of the Enigma and other Historic Cipher Machines**. Professor Perera is one of the world's experts on these amazing machines. The mathematics involved is formidable. Yet even so, operator errors provided the clues that reduced to permutations and combinations to eventually manageable levels that the new -- very new -- computers could

work on. And before the Nazi traffic could be deciphered it had to be intercepted.

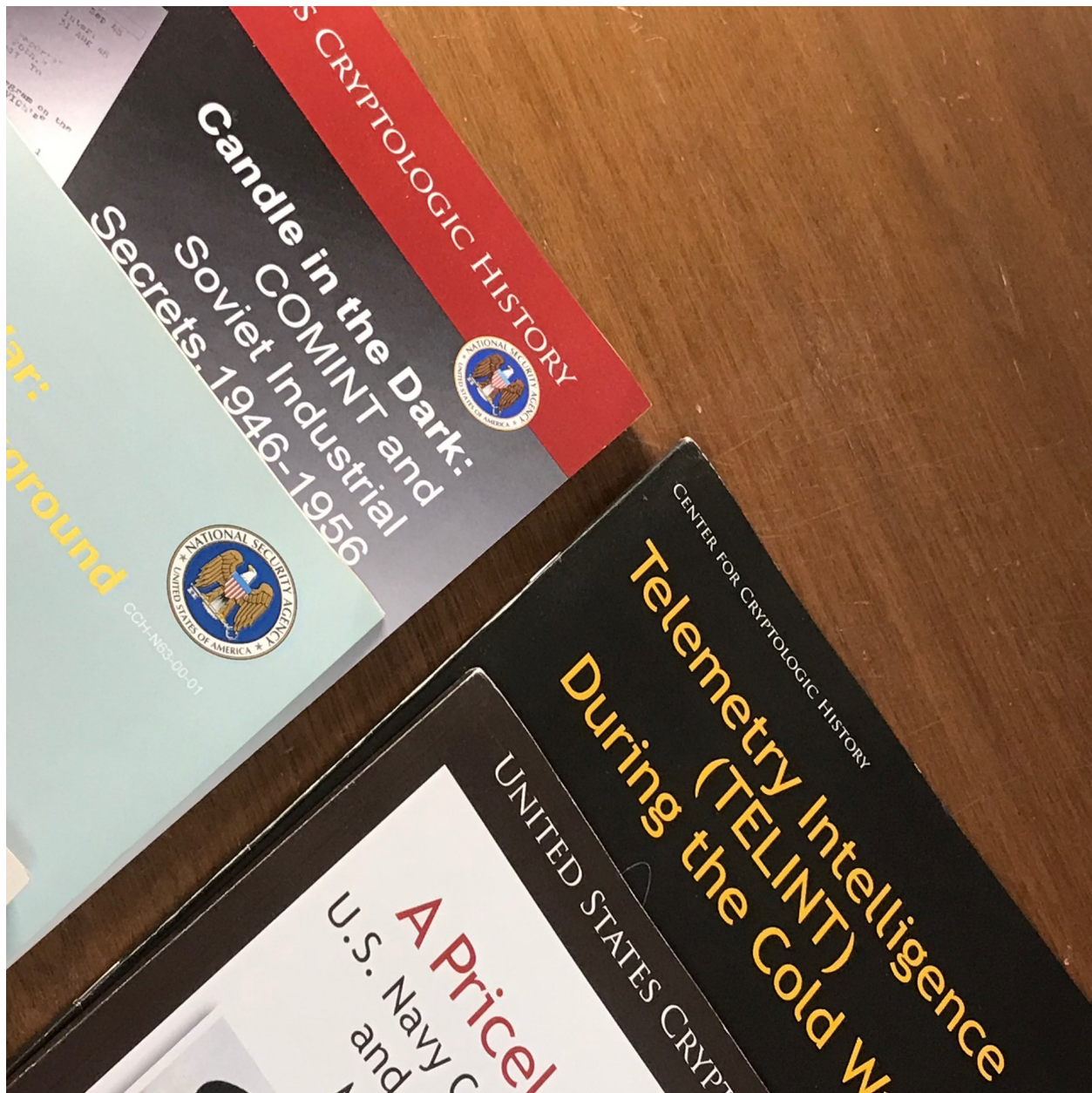


The decryption of the Nazi Enigma radio traffic materially shortened World War Two. Maybe it saved England from starvation by German submarine as well.

A CHRS friend retired from the National Security Agency has sent us a neat selection of NSA COMINT histories. NSA hears it all, and after a while, sometimes a long while, they have their historians write about (some of) it.



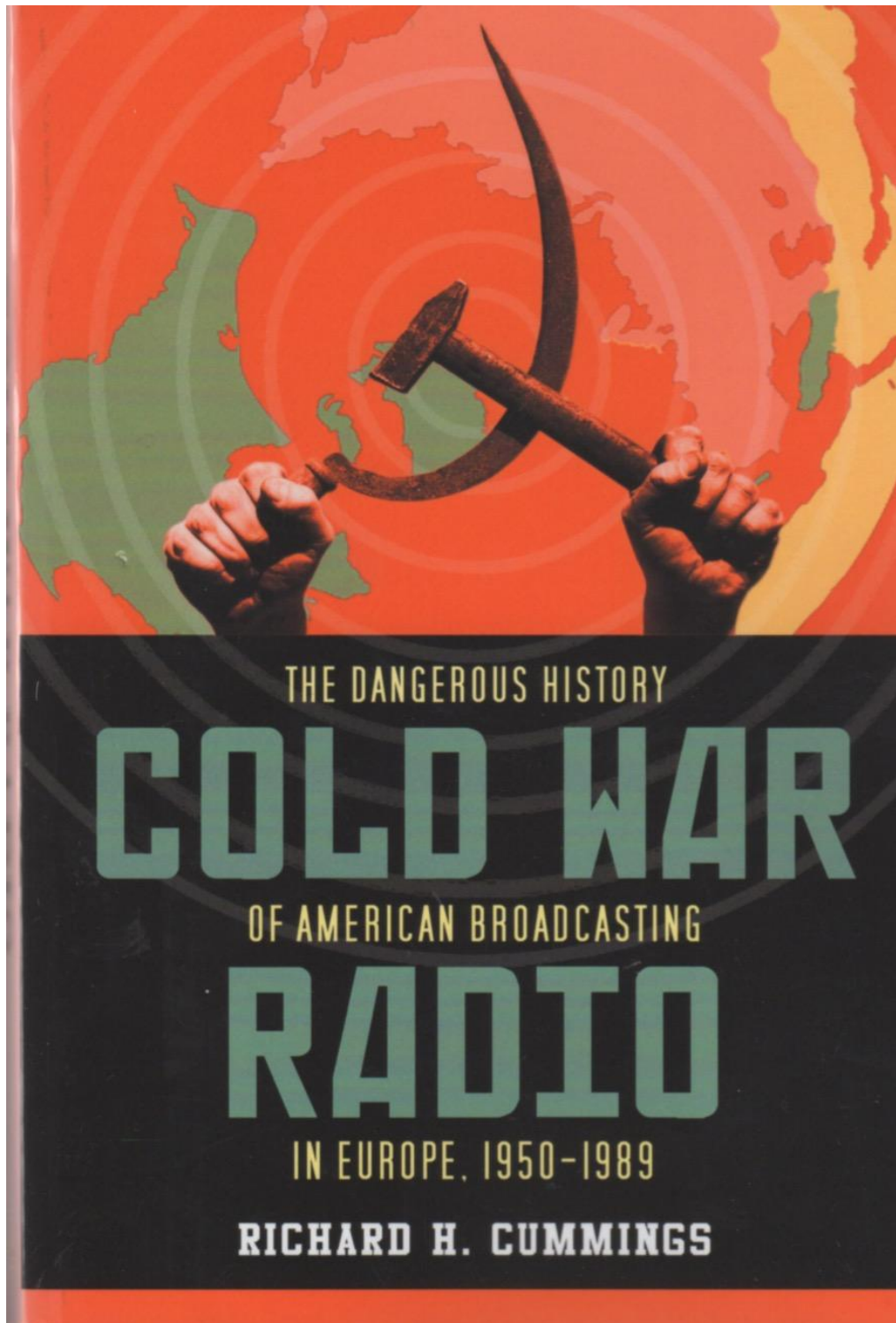




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Some time ago, down came the Berlin Wall, and the Soviet Union dissolved into History. Radio Free Europe, the U.S. truth-telling short wave radio broadcasting system played a big part in all of this. So much so that the Communists bombed its Munich

operations. This whole story appears in **COLD WAR RADIO**, a new book in the library.





The Russians did not like Radio Free Europe, so they blew it up.

*4. Carlos the Jackal and the Bombing of RFE/RL*

105

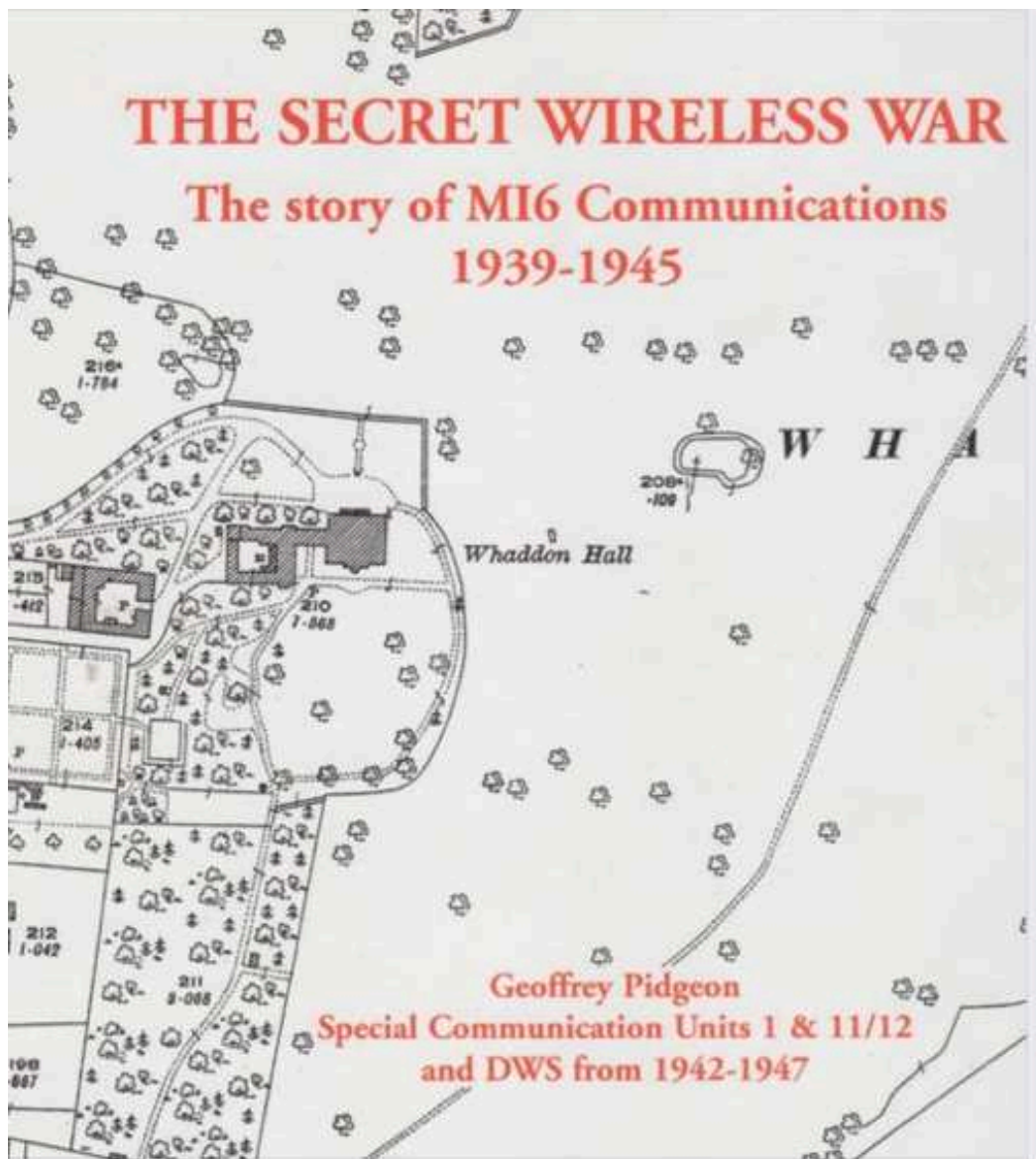


**1981 Munich, Germany**



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The California Historical Radio Society library also has acquired recently published WW II radio books. One is the inside story of the English Secret Intelligence Service (MI-6) in World War Two: **THE SECRET WIRELESS WAR, THE STORY OF MI-6 COMMUNICATIONS 1939 - 1947** by Geoffrey Pidgeon. MI-6 Section VIII ran all the secret communications for the English war effort.



Related wartime histories usually focus on the decryption of Enigma traffic, but radio operators had to copy the encrypted traffic first, and other radio operators had to handle the secret messages that effected the Allies responses to the astonishing intelligence that radio interception -- and decryption -- provided.

This book provides a surprising wealth of detail about the radio operations and their context. Enthusiasts will appreciate the technical detail, especially about “Agents’ Sets.”

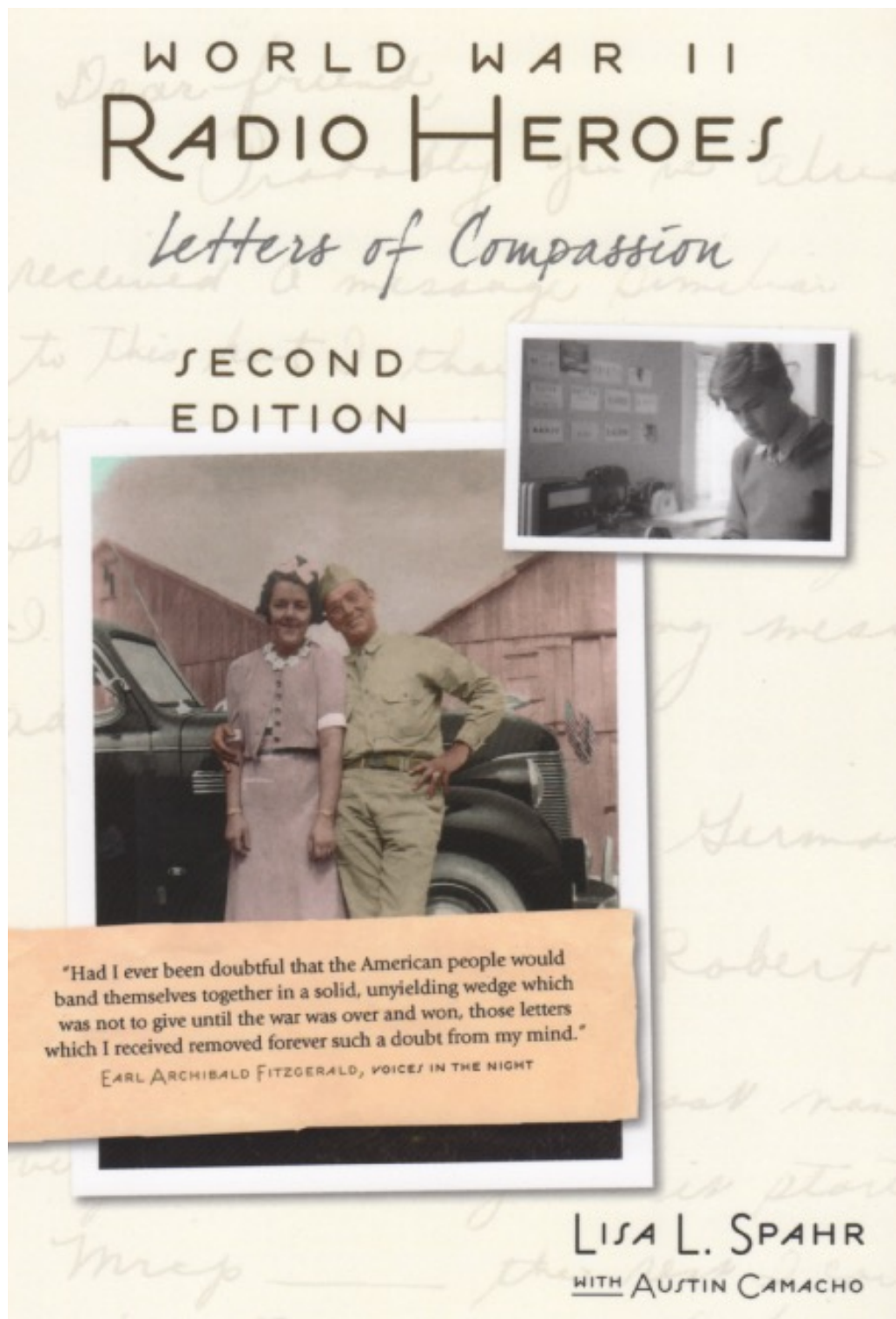
The California Historical Radio Society library also acquired a “homefront” WW II radio book: WORLD WAR II RADIO HEROES LETTERS OF COMPASSION by Lisa L. Spahr.

It tells the story of hundreds of shortwave listeners and hams who monitored Axis broadcasts about American prisoners of war.

These men, boys and many women then wrote to the families about what they had heard. In many cases it was the first news the families got.

The original letters and response are very moving even after so many years.





For context, see *Radio Spies*, copyright Bart Lee, 2002, 2006, page 112, 113

## “WORLD WAR TWO’S HOME FRONT MONITORS:

Thousands of American shortwave listeners followed every move in the Second World War. Many were “Armchair Generals” such as Norman Rockwell painted for the Saturday Evening Post, [Fig. 89- (this appeared as a cover on the CHRS Journal about 1994)]. Others listened more casually. Many American shortwave listeners kept a record of prisoner of war names. This monitoring was formalized by at least one nationwide club.

This supplemented the F.B.I.S. information conveyed to the Army Provost Marshall who passed it on to families. The bureaucratic process of the F.C.C. and the Army often delayed notification. The cards (and sometimes telephone calls) of concerned short wave listeners [Figs. 111, 112] sometimes contained the first news to reach the families of captured soldiers, sailors and airmen informing them that their loved ones were safe, albeit prisoners of war. [10]

Moreover, as a result of variable high frequency propagation or local conditions, or priorities, it is likely that the F.B.I.S. did not catch all the names broadcast. Thus, some families may have come to know the fate of a son or brother only from the good work of a patient and dedicated short wave listener.

A typical story is told by noted short wave hobby writer Hank Bennett: “During World War Two, one of my SWL friends, who (to the best of my knowledge) never held a ham radio license ... did a magnificent job of tuning in the foreign shortwave broadcasts from the capitals and chief cities of the Axis countries; he used several receivers so that he could tune in two or more stations at any one time. He faithfully monitored every possible transmission in an effort to learn the names of Americans who had been taken prisoner of war. Reportedly, he was often able to notify military authorities or family members of the general whereabouts of missing servicemen before the military officials themselves were even able to get the information. I often wonder what happened to this fine gentleman who so ably served his country in a nonmilitary manner. He lived in one of the southern states and certainly should have received some sort of commendation from his appreciative government.” [9]

An advertisement from Midwest Radio in the February 1944 Radio News tells a similar story. Mr. Alex Gordon [Fig. 111] used his 16-tube Midwest to monitor the war, and heard prisoners' names broadcast by the Nazis. He notified the families with post cards, and organized others to do the same. Reportedly, many such listeners spent a considerable amount on postage and related expenses during the course of the war, which they considered as personal contributions to victory.

Both *Popular Communications* and *Monitoring Times* magazines have run stories on this home front effort. [12, 17] According to a later interview with the source for the *Popular Communications* story, Mr. Frank Davis, some 469 short wave listeners are now known, so many years later, to have communicated news to families of prisoners of war. In his own case, his mother heard from 38 listeners writing her to tell her that her son was safe as a prisoner. [29]"

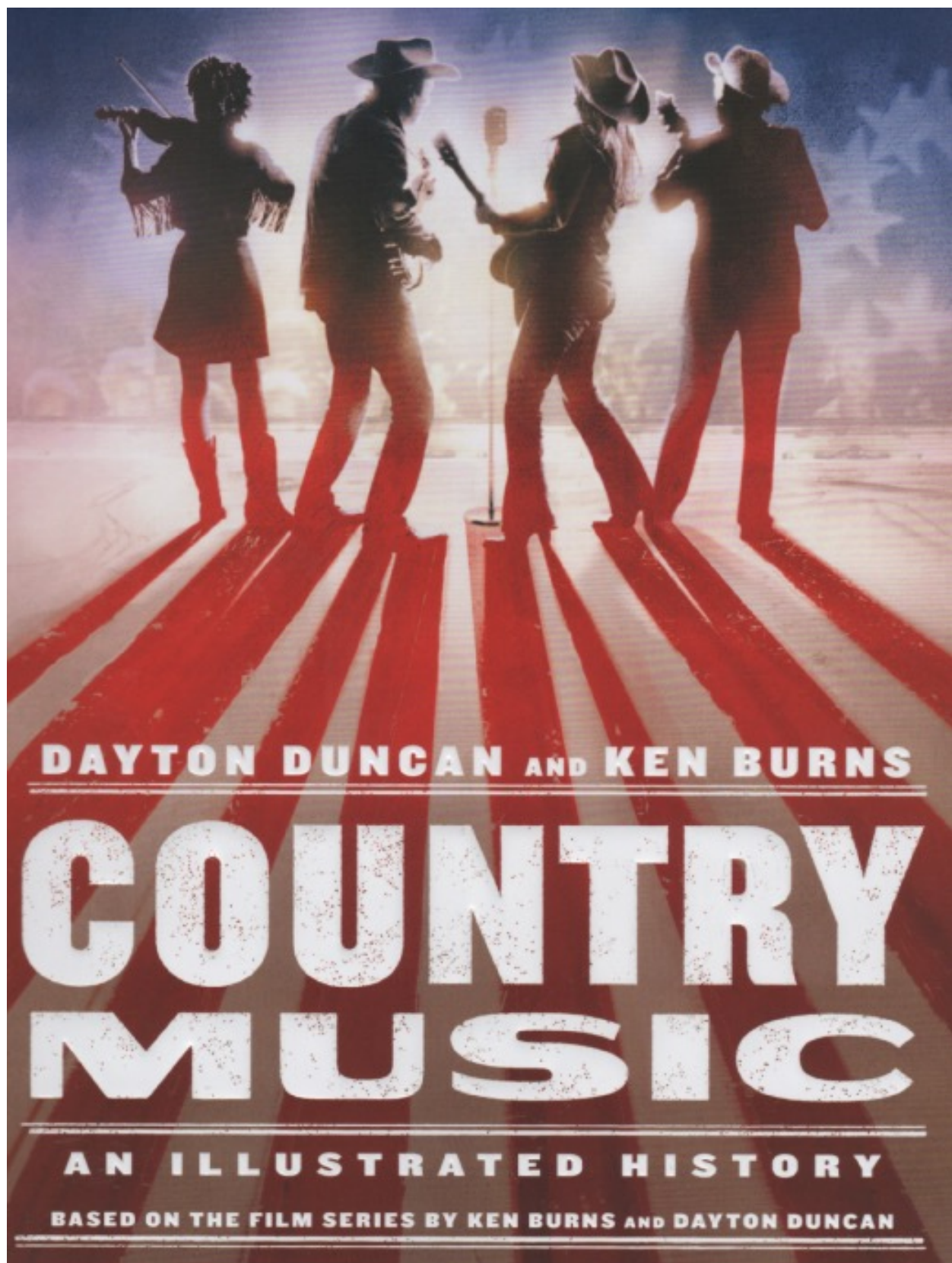
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The CHRS library has acquired, by thoughtful donations, several new and important books about radio history. The hardbound COUNTRY MUSIC version of the recent Ken Burns PBS special has arrived by the generosity of Merle Haggard fan Judy Mears.

This book tells the story of early and mature radio broadcasting in the creation of what is now known as Country Music This music, like jazz and rock, is a true American art form, the progeny of talent and capital.

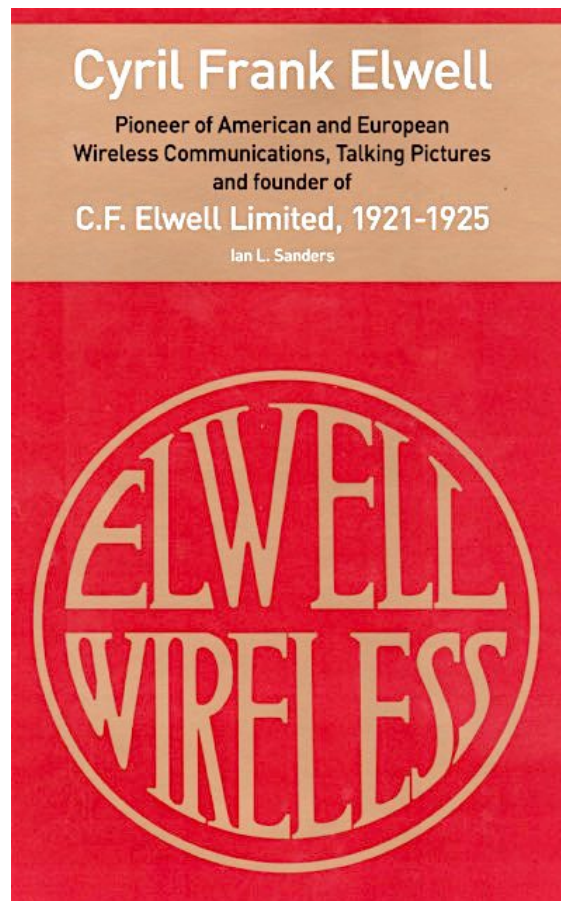
For Country Music, WSM in particular stands out as instrumental.

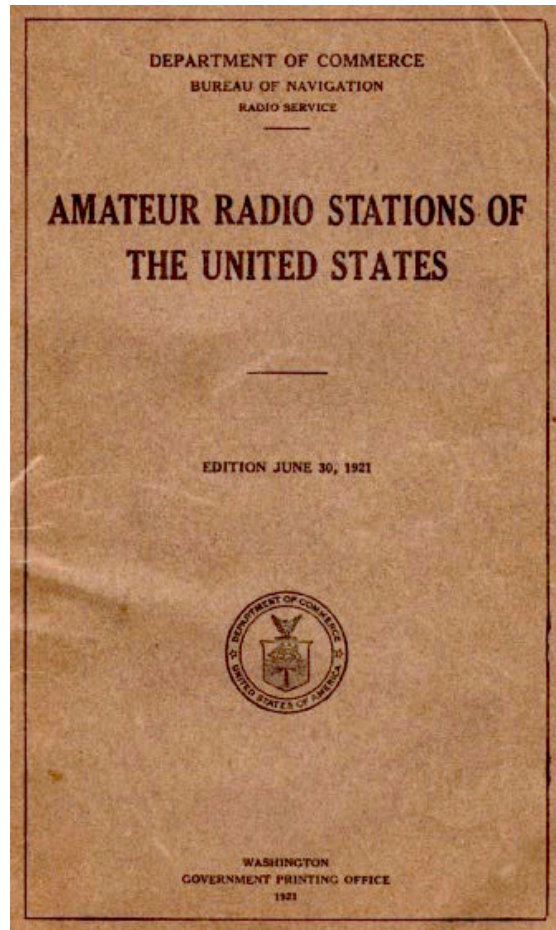




Gerry Tucker, N6NV has donated a new book from UK: CYRIL FRANK ELLWELL. He founded Federal Radio in Palo Alto more than a century ago. Federal employed Lee de Forest, come west from New York “one step ahead of the sheriff” (as it is sometimes said) to perfect the vacuum tube. He made it oscillate in 1913 “and the rest is history.”

Gerry also donated a well-preserved copy of the US amateur radio station list of 1921. This list includes, among many others, Miss Kathleen Parkin, 6BP of San Rafael. She associated with her brother in the Parkin Manufacturing Company. CHRS has custody of a few Parkin radio-related items.



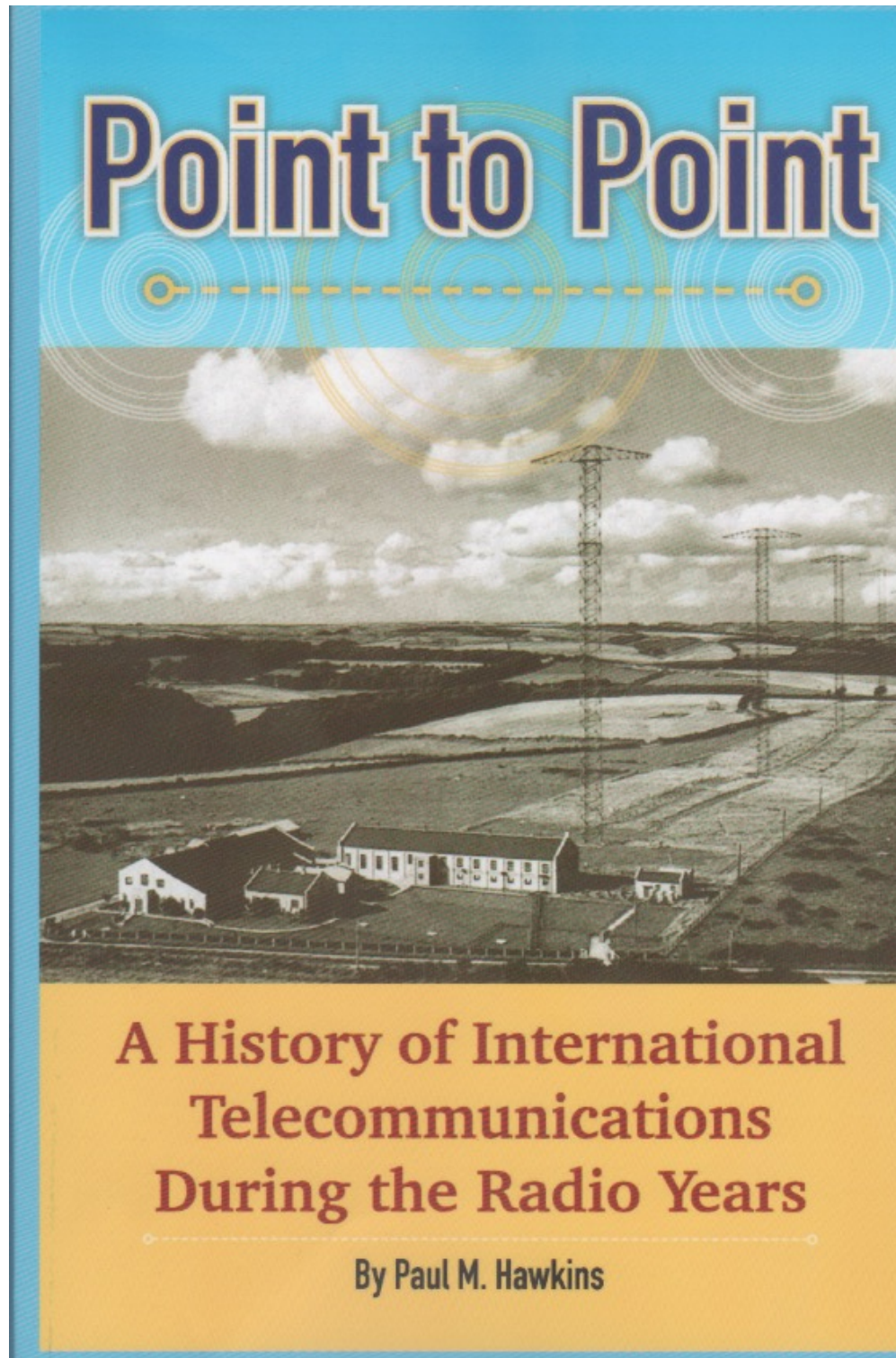


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Some say that which is not broadcasting is real, working radio. For decades, from 1907 to perhaps 1990, one of the most important aspects of radio was international. The evolving technology, long wave to short wave, spark to vacuum tubes, connected the world for private and government messages. Initially wireless telegraphy linked the continents, then telephony and then data. Wireless challenged the cables; in a century, the fiber-optic cables replaced radio. Senior radio engineer Paul M. Hawkins has written a splendid history of



"point to point" radio, titled appropriately enough POINT TO POINT The library now has a copy.





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## NBC San Francisco Radio City Opening, 1942 and its Brochure.

The Archives has just acquired a near-mint copy of NBC's opening brochure for the then-new studio building at 420 Taylor Street. (The great mosaic mural of radio adorns the Taylor Street side, forty feet high, and newly restored -- see photos). This maybe a unique surviving copy.



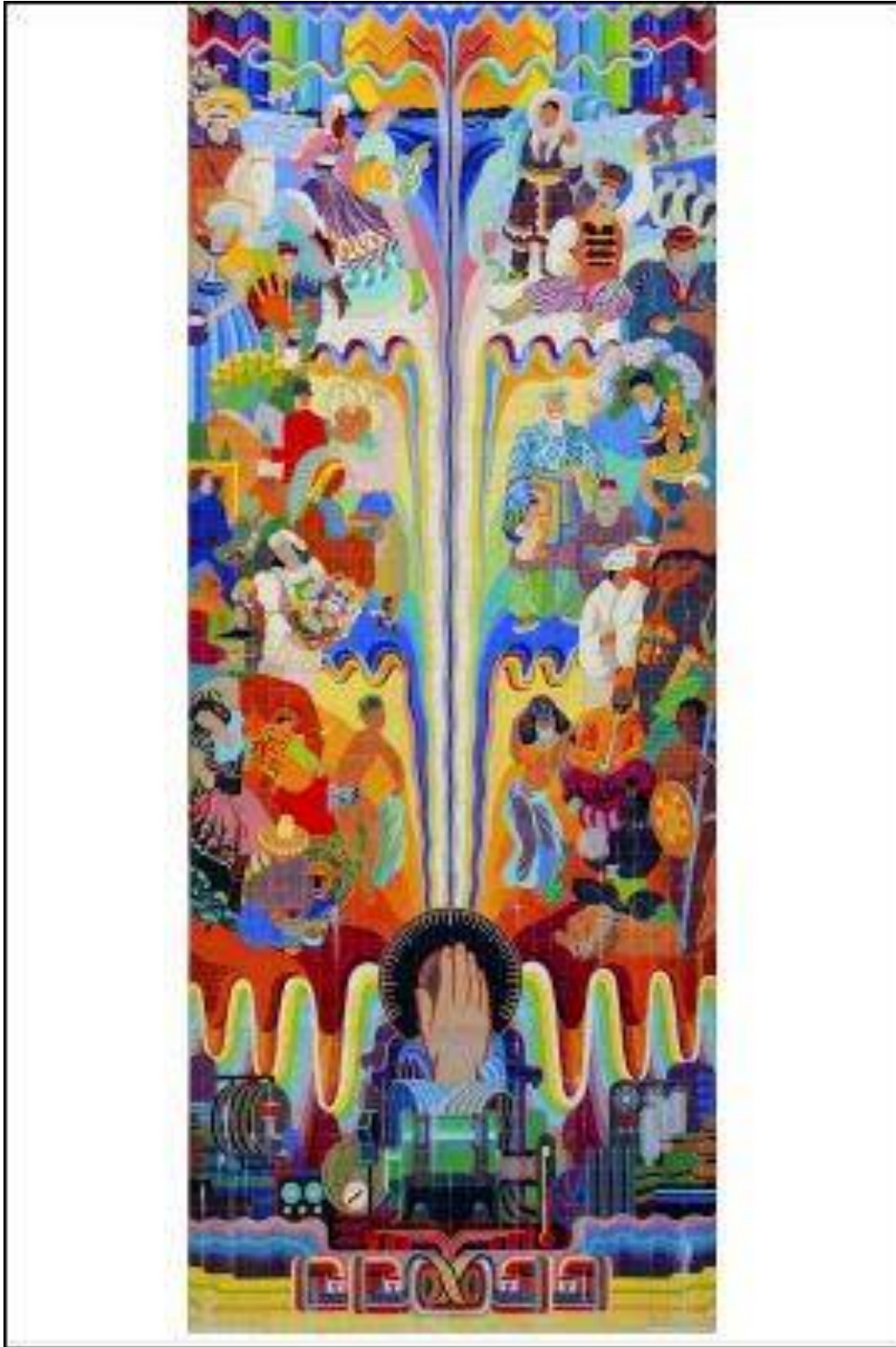




NBC wrote of this building in 1942:

“NEW BUILDING [--] Work on the new NBC Building in San Francisco is progressing on schedule and March 14 is set for the dedication.

“Most spectacular architectural feature is the huge mural panel, 14 by 40 feet, rising above the main entrance. This symbolic montage, containing scores of pictures in 114 colors, will tell the story of the unlimited reach of radio from the tropics to the poles. It is done in special tile, the only creation of its kind in the world.



Mural Photo by Anders Widell, AWA, processing by John Stuart, CHRS.

“Completion of the mural was celebrated with a special broadcast at the building January 17. A dramatization of the story in the great panel was a feature of the program.”

(NBC TRANSMITTER JANUARY 1942 [p 15] — [https:// archive\(dot\)org / stream/nbctransmitter 8194 nati/nbctransmitter 8194nati\\_djvu.txt](https://archive(dot)org/stream/nbctransmitter8194nati/nbctransmitter8194nati_djvu.txt)). The Archives would like to get a copy of that program or its script.

The brochure’s introduction focuses on the war:

“RADIO IN 1942 [--] Radio, so intimately a part of practically every life during normal times, is infinitely more vital during a period of national crisis. Always the friendly purveyor of news and entertainment and education, broadcasting today sublimates all these functions to the supreme task of helping fit a whole people to win a great war and a great peace.

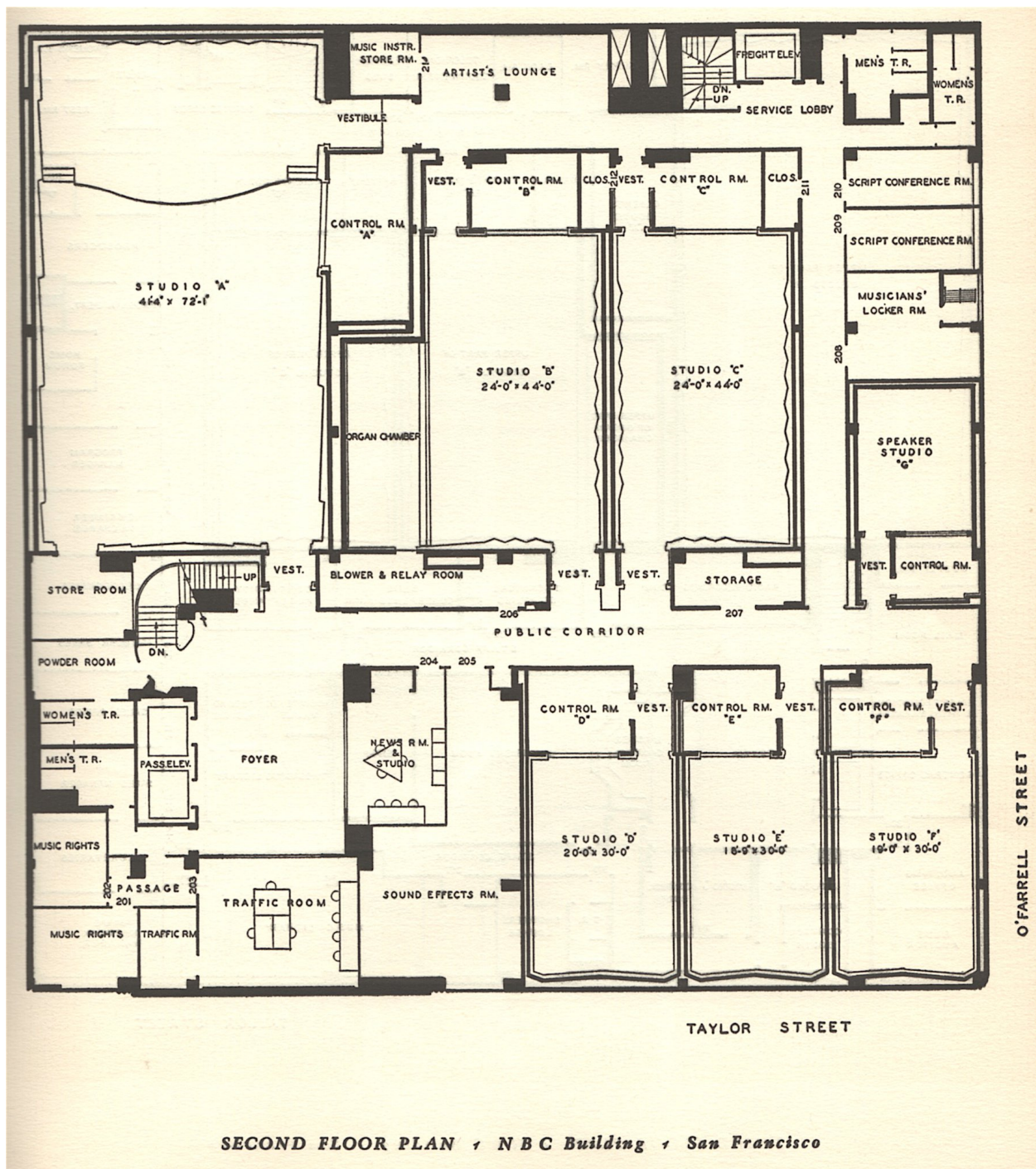
“San Francisco Radio City was conceived in peace. Its object was to bring the Golden Gate on a par with New York, Chicago, and Hollywood as one of the four major network producing centers in America. That it is brought forth in war in no way means that the original objective has not been achieved. Rather does it signify that this million-dollar monument, literally the most perfect broadcasting plant devised by the ever-improving hands of our industry's miracle engineers, takes its place in the surge of our nation's war effort as definitely as does the latest plane factory and the newest shipyard.

“Morale, as well as munitions, will win this war. Radio will do more than any other agency to enhance morale ... and San Francisco Radio City, making possible more programs and better production and quicker news dissemination from the great war theaters of the Pacific, is going to be a powerful contributory factor.”

This last from the NBC 1942 Brochure, p 1, introduction signed by Sidney K. Strotz, VP, Western Division, NBC. The brochure is ten pages letterpress on quality cream paper, including for pages of photographs and five pages of floorplans,



with text on the inside front and back covers, and an engraving of a KPO microphone on the back cover.



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In 1924, one could buy many a radio kit. The reflex became a popular circuit because it used one vacuum tube (not cheap) to do the work of two: e.g., one detector and then again as an audio amplifier. Harkness made such a reflex kit.

August, 1924
RADIO IN THE HOME
5

# Build your Harkness Reflex With Genuine Radio Guild Parts

You can get cheaper imitations of Radio Guild parts for the Harkness Reflex, but don't forget they are cheap imitations and cannot give you the results you will expect. Only the genuine parts can and will give you the results. Ask for RADIO GUILD parts and see that you get them. Look for the Radio Guild Seal on every package. Don't be cheated!



**Complete Box & Parts:  
Harkness Receiver  
Model B**

**Nothing  
Else To Buy**

**35<sup>00</sup>**

**Flexoformers**



**\$12<sup>00</sup>  
Per Pair**

**This Complete Kit  
Contains All Parts For 2-Tube Set**

The parts in this Kit were designed by Kenneth Harkness, Chief Engineer of the Radio Guild, and are manufactured under his direct supervision. You may be certain, therefore, that the receiver you build with these parts will be perfect in every detail. You will find, too, that each part is specially prepared to simplify the work of construction. The panels are drilled; the terminals are numbered; the kit contains every necessary item—right down to the last screw. With only a screwdriver and a soldering iron you can put the whole set together in just a few minutes.

But be careful; don't let anybody sell you a bunch of cheap junk and tell you you can build the "Kenneth Harkness" Reflex with it. You can't, any more than you can build a Packard with Ford parts. Get the genuine RADIO GUILD parts and you'll save yourself real money.

**Complete 2-Tube Kit**

**Audio Transformer**



**\$4<sup>85</sup>**

**Crystal Detector**



**\$2<sup>00</sup>**

**THE RADIO GUILD, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
*Warranted*

Distributors  
Radio Stores Corp.  
222 West 34th Street,  
New York City

Distributors  
Trilling & Montague  
40 North Seventh St.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

**Mail this Coupon for Illustrated Book**

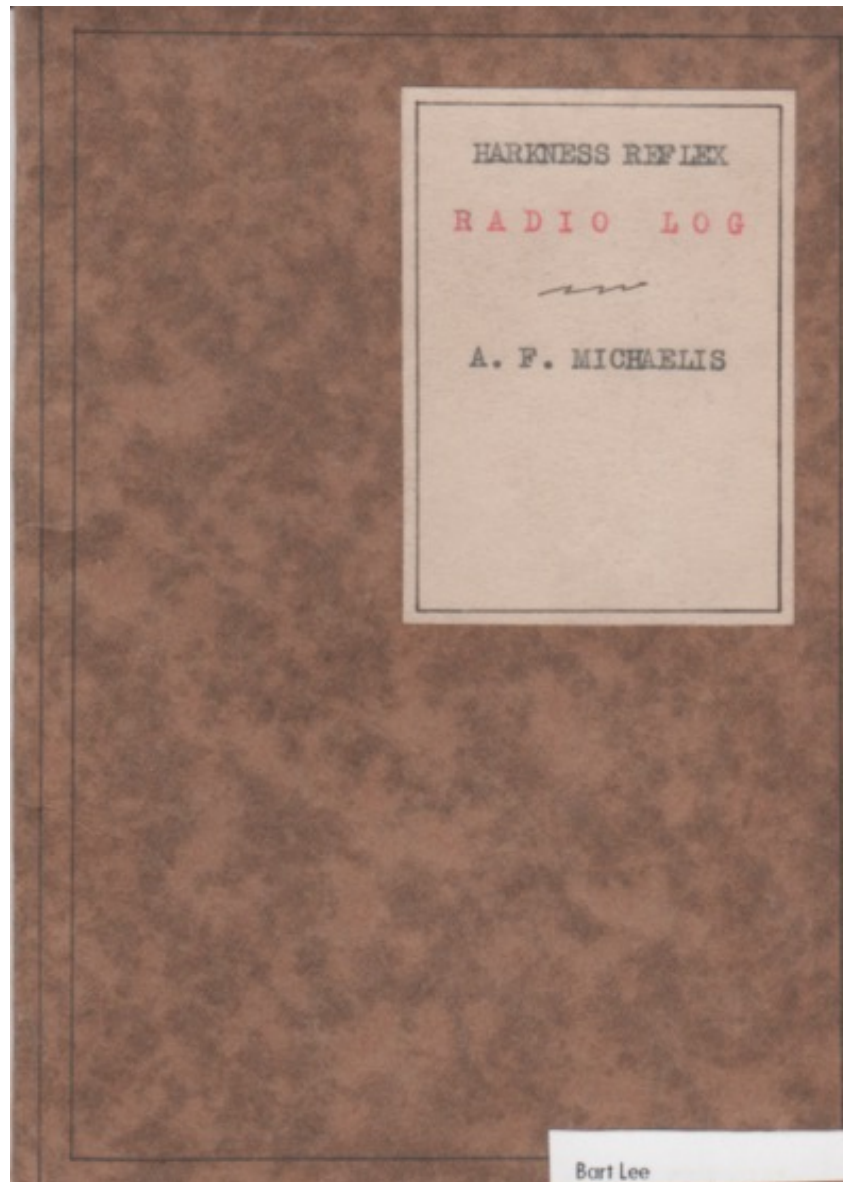
THE RADIO GUILD, Inc.,  
222 West 34th Street, New York, N. Y.      P1111 8-24

Please send me your 36-page book with colored illustrations, photographs, wiring diagrams, blueprints of panel layouts and complete instructions for building the 2-tube Harkness Reflex, together with full descriptions of Radio Guild products, for which I enclose ten cents. Mail at once.

Name .....

Address .....

Along with the kit it seems Harkness sent a radio log – or, maybe a listener bought a printed-up but blank log and inserted stations heard, and put a label on it identifying his receiver.



The log entries follow; the stations are mostly West Coast with a few from the Midwest.



WAVEL. Meters	RADIO STA 'N	LONG ANTENNA		SHORT ANTENNA		LOCATION	OPERATOR	POWER Watts
		DIAL 1	DIAL 2	DIAL 1	DIAL 2			
226	KFFR					Reno, Nev.	Sparks High School	100
234	KFNV					Santa Rosa	Drake Radio	5
"	KFON					Long Beach	Echophone Radio	250
242	KFBE					San Luis Obispo	Kline Brothers	10
244	KDPT					San Diego	Southern Elec. Co.	50
248	KFEC					Portland, Ore.	Meier & Frank	50
"	KUJ					Fresno	San Joaquin L. & P.	50
252	KGB					Tacoma, Wash.	Tacoma Daily Ledger	50
258	KGY					Lacey, Wash.	St. Martin's College	10
268	KFPT					Salt Lake City, Utah	Cope & Johnson	250
270	KDZE					Seattle, Wash.	The Rhodes Company	100
"	KFAU					Boise, Idaho	Boise Public Schools	100
"	KFJC					Seattle, Wash.	Post-Intelligencer	100
273	KJQ					Stockton	Gould, The Light Man	5
275	KRE					Berkeley (Claremont H)	Berkeley Gazette	50
278	KFBC					San Diego	W. K. Azbill	20
"	KFSG					Los Angeles	Angelus Temple	500
280	KDYM					San Diego	Savoy Theatre	100
280	KSRC					San Francisco	Radioart Studio	50
"	KFAW					Santa Ana	Western Radio Corp'n	10
283	KFBK					Sacramento	Kimball-Upson	100
"	KFHR					Seattle, Wash.	Star Electric Co.	50
"	KJR					Seattle, Wash.	N.W. Radio Service Co.	100
"	KLZ					Denver, Colo.	Reynolds Radio Co.	500
"	WHAA					Iowa City, Iowa	Iowa State Univ.	100

WAVEL. Meters	RADIO STA 'N	LONG ANTENNA		SHORT ANTENNA		LOCATION	OPERATOR	POWER Watts
		DIAL 1	DIAL 2	DIAL 1	DIAL 2			
309	WGW					Cincinnati, Ohio	Crosley Mfg. Co.	500
312	KBO	66	66	40	66	Oakland	General Elec. Co.	1000
326	KDEA					E. Pittsburgh, Pa.	Westinghouse E. Co.	1000
330	KFAE					Pullman, Wash.	Wash. State College	500
341	KPIX					Hastings, Neb.	Westinghouse E. Co.	1000
360	KDYL					Salt Lake City, Utah	Newhouse Hotel	100
"	KDZE					Bakersfield	T. Seifert	100
"	KFAF					Denver, Colo.	Western Radio Co.	50
"	KFHJ					Santa Barbara	Fallon & Co.	100
"	KGG					Portland, Ore.	Hallock & Watson	50
"	KGN					Portland, Ore.	N.W. Radio Company	100
"	KHQ					Seattle, Wash.	L. Wasmer	250
"	KJS					Los Angeles	Bible Institute	750
360	KLS					Oakland	Warner Brothers	250
"	KMO					Tacoma, Wash.	Love Electric Co.	10
"	KMK					Los Angeles	Elec. Light Supply	100
"	KFW					Seattle, Wash.	First Presby. Church	750
360	KJO					San Francisco	S. F. Examiner	150
"	KWG					Stockton	Portable W. T. Co.	50
360	KZN	20	23			Oakland	Hotel Oakland	50
"	KZN					Salt Lake City, Utah	Deseret News	500
"	WDAP					Chicago, Ill.	Board of Trade	500
370	WGN					Chicago, Ill.	Chicago Tribune	500
390	WTAM					Cleveland, Ohio	Willard S. B. Co.	1000
395	KHJ					Los Angeles	L. A. Times	500

WAVEL. Meters	RADIO STA 'N	LONG ANTENNA DIAL 1 DIAL 2		SHORT ANTENNA DIAL 1 DIAL 2		LOCATION	OPERATOR	POWER Watts
400	CFCL					Victoria, B.C.	Victoria C. of C.	500
"	FWK					Havana, Cuba	Internat'l T. & T. Co.	500
405	WOR					Newark, N.J.	L. Bamberger & Co.	500
410	CHBC					Calgary, Alb.	Albertan Pub. Co.	1000
"	CKCD					Vancouver, B.C.	The Daily Province	1000
411	WDAF					Kansas City, Mo.	Kansas City Star	500
"	WHB					Kansas City, Mo.	Sweeney Auto School	500
417	WLAG					Minneapolis, Minn.	Cutting & Wash'nt'n	500
420	CKCK					Regina, Saskatch.	Leader Pub. Co.	500
422.7	KPO	98	102	97	102	San Francisco	Hale Brothers, Inc.	500
429	WSB					Atlanta, Ga.	Atlanta Journal	500
430	CFAC					Calgary, Alb.	Calgary Herald	650
440	CFCN					Calgary, Alb.	W.W. Grant, Radio	1500
448	WMAQ					Chicago, Ill.	Daily News	500
"	WJAZ					Chicago, Ill.	Edgewater Bch. Hot.	500
450	CJCA					Edmonton, Alb.	Edmonton Journal	500
455	KFOA					Seattle, Wash.	Rhodes Company	500
469.7	KFI					Los Angeles	Earle C. Anthony	500
476	WBAP					Fort Worth, Tex.	Star-Telegram	500
"	WFAP					Dallas, Tex.	Dallas News	500
484	WOC					Davenport, Iowa	Palmer School of C.	500
490	CYR					Mazatlan, Mexico	Rosseter y Cia.	250
492	KGW					Portland, Ore.	Oregonian	500

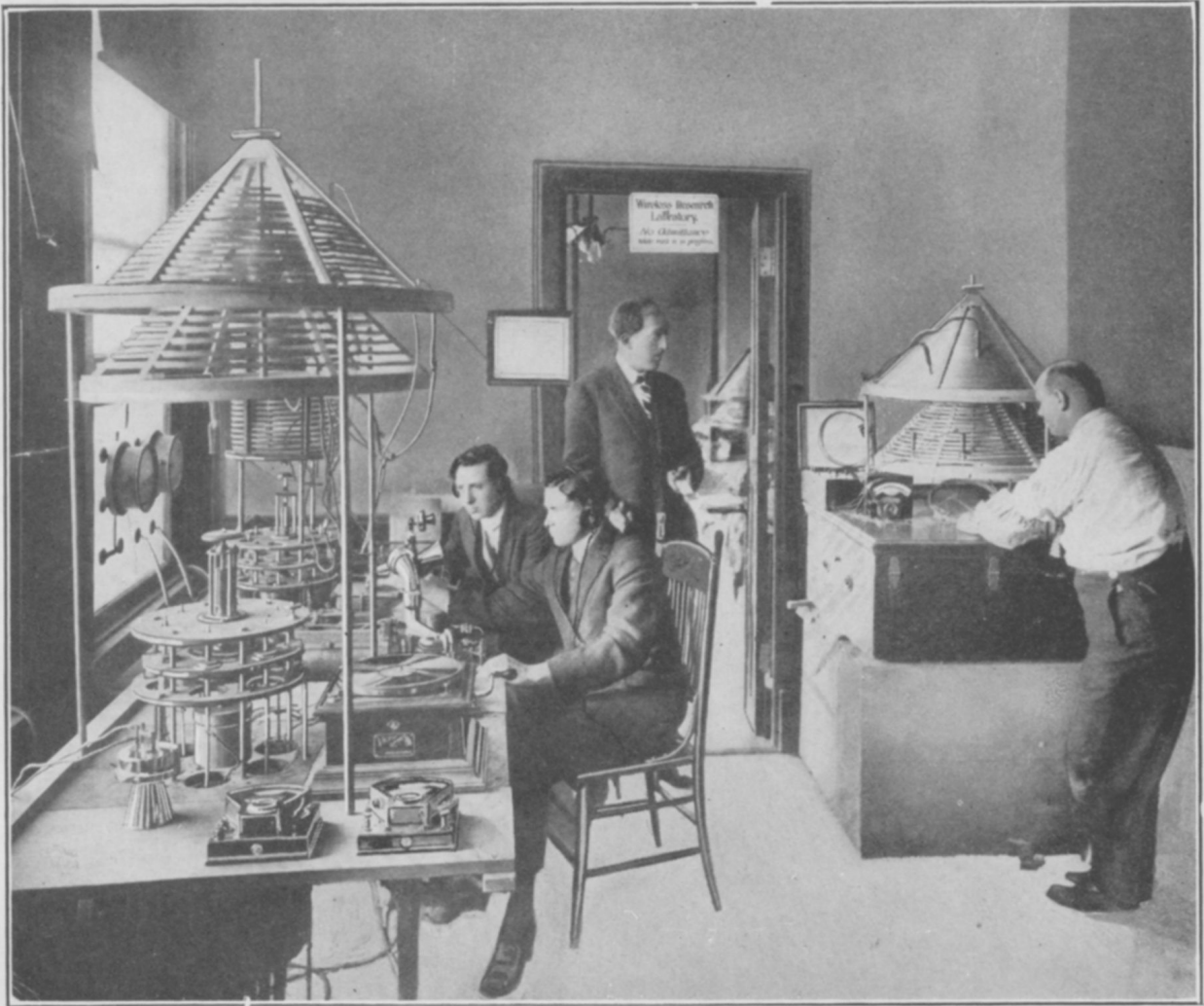
WAVEL. Meters	RADIO STA 'N	LONG ANTENNA DIAL 1 DIAL 2		SHORT ANTENNA DIAL 1 DIAL 2		LOCATION	OPERATOR	POWER Watts
500	CYL					Mexico City, Mexico	El Universal	500
509	KLX					Oakland	Oakland Tribune	500
517	WCK					Detroit, Mich.	Detroit Free Press	500
"	WWJ					Detroit, Mich.	Evening News	500
520	KICE					Chihuahua, Mexico	State Government	1000
526	WOAW					Omaha, Neb.	Woodmen of World	500
536	KYW					Chicago, Ill.	Westinghouse E. Co.	500
546	KSD					St. Louis, Mo.	Post-Dispatch	500

This one has the Bay Area radio stations in red. It seems to have been put to some use because some dial positions are noted.

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Doc Herrold took to the ether in 1909 as *San Jose Calling*. By 1913 he had his now well-known arc transmitter operating. The photo, from a KQW brochure in 1931, shows Doc and the staff in 1913.



Pioneer Radio Station KQW as it looked when broadcasting in 1913. Standing in the doorway, Dr. Chas. D. Herrold, Inventor and Builder. Left Foreground—E. A. Portal, operator. Left Background—Kenneth Sanders, Operator. Right Background—Frank G. Schmidt, Mechanician. On a much cruder apparatus than the one shown in the above picture, Ray Newby and Dr. Herrold made a number of broadcasts of music in the year 1909.

The caption reads:

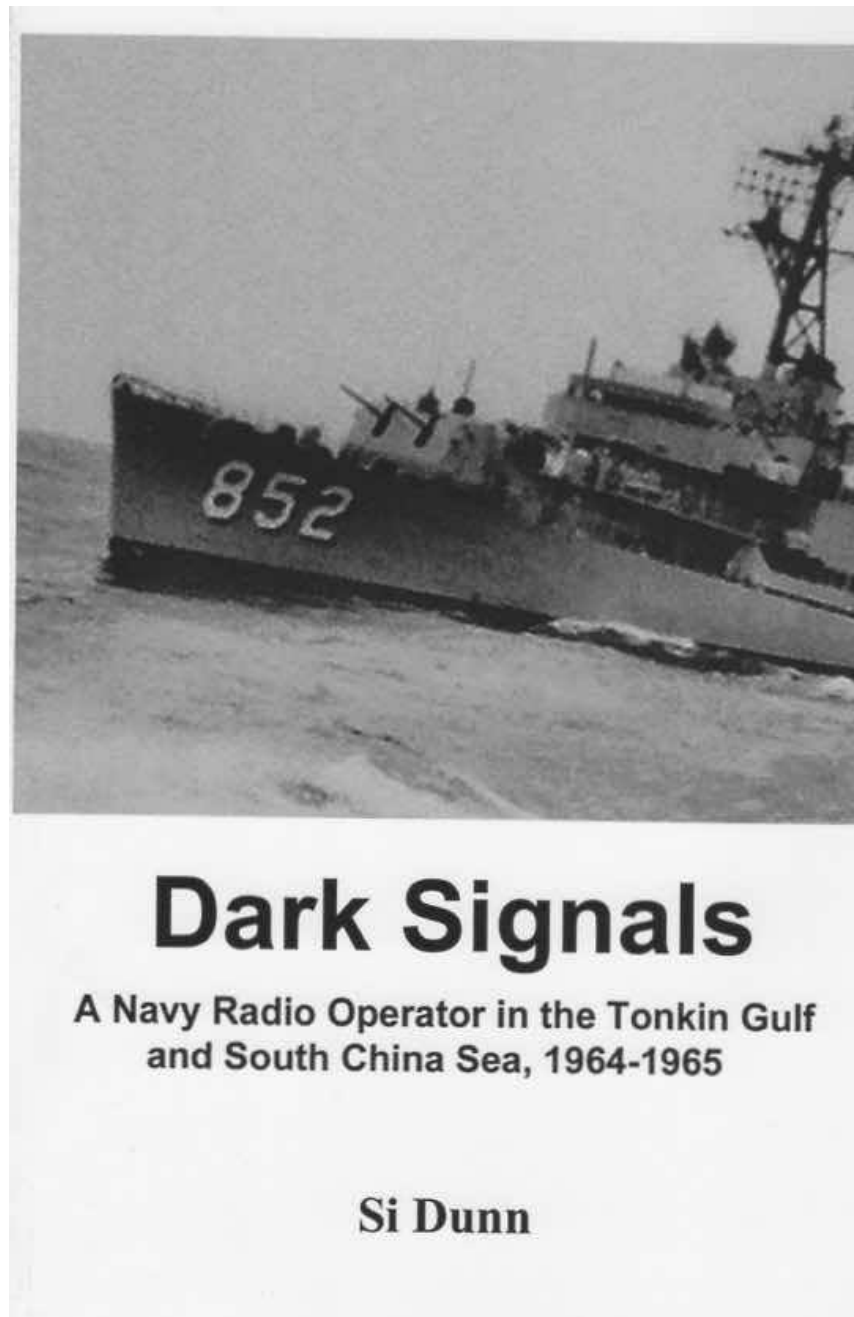
“Pioneer Radio Station KQW as it looked when broadcasting in 1913. Standing in the doorway, Dr. Chas. D. Herrold, Inventor and Builder. Left Foreground — E. A. Portal, operator. Left Background — Kenneth Sanders, Operator. Right Background — Frank G. Schmidt, Mechanician. On a much cruder apparatus than the one shown in the above picture, Ray Newby and Dr. Herrold made a number of broadcasts of music in the year 1909.”

KQW is the government assigned callsign from the early 1920s. A related station was KJBS. KCBS (740 KHz today) derives from KQW. Both Portal and Sanders went on to radio careers. The brochure cover shows the reach of KQW from San Jose up the peninsula to San Francisco and also to the East Bay, mainly Oakland. In 1931 KQW focused on agricultural programming.



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A quick book review for the ARC-5 reflector of DARK SIGNALS, by Si Dunn:

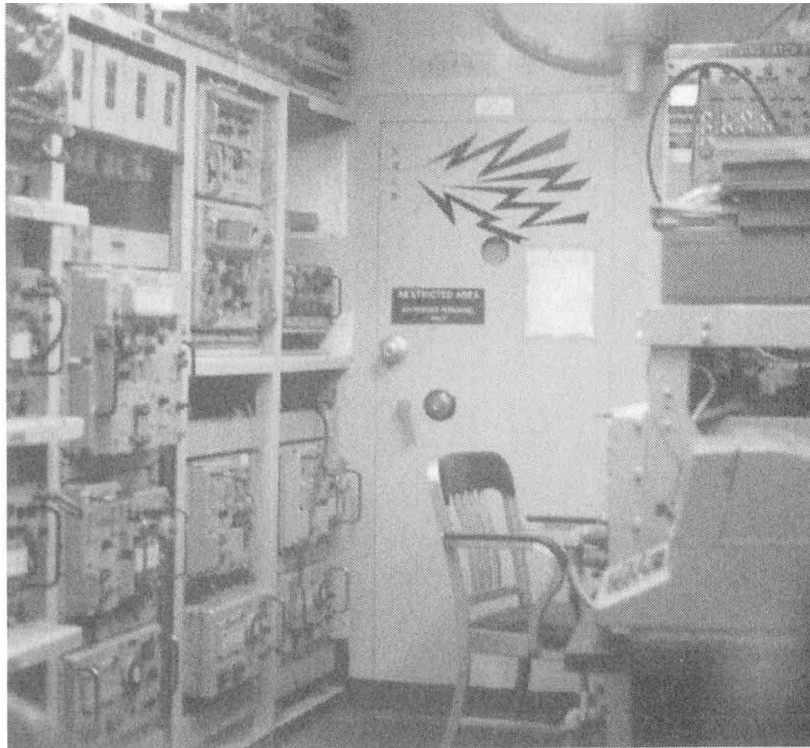


"Re 'Dark Signals' -- I got the book in a day. I read it in a (long) day. It's a very good story about real Navy radio and by a real Navy radioman on a DD off the Vietnamese Coast. He came in, in 1964, as a ham and that



experience served him well and saved some lives. Inasmuch as he had access to all the top-secret signals, he knew our involvement in the all-too-real war he was in the midst of was a fraud. Only much later could he write about it, or even speak about it. He paid a high personal price. I'm happy to have read this sometimes-sad story."

Dunn's life as a teenage radio enthusiast will find a lot of resonance in those of us who built radios in high school and earlier, and who listened to the wonderful shortwave international cacophony of Cycle 19 (1957 – '63). Dunn then joined the world of amateur radio. His self-taught skills made a difference in the world of the Navy.



Radio Central, the main radio room aboard a Gearing Class destroyer. The encrypted radio teletype equipment and the crypto compartment were behind the closed door.  
This is the restored radio room of the museum ship *USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.* (DD-850)  
(Photo by Si Dunn)

Amazon says (maybe written by Dunn):

"In August 1964, a young U.S. Navy radio operator found himself in waters he had never heard of, participating in the expansion of a war in a nation he didn't know existed: Vietnam. What he learned from actions he witnessed and the classified messages he handled over the next 10 months left him shaken, disillusioned, and full of questions about America's responses to events in the Tonkin Gulf and South China Sea, including the rush to bomb North Vietnam and the Johnson Administration's decisions to vastly expand the presence of U.S. ground, air, and naval forces in Southeast Asia. Some within the U.S. 7th Fleet knew almost from the outset that the still-controversial 'second attack' which triggered the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution did not involve North Vietnamese PT boats firing on U.S. Navy destroyers in pitch-dark seas. What it did involve, others have since shown, was something simpler and much stranger. This is one sailor's memories of being present at the ragged beginnings of a long conflict that ultimately failed and cost 58,000 American lives."

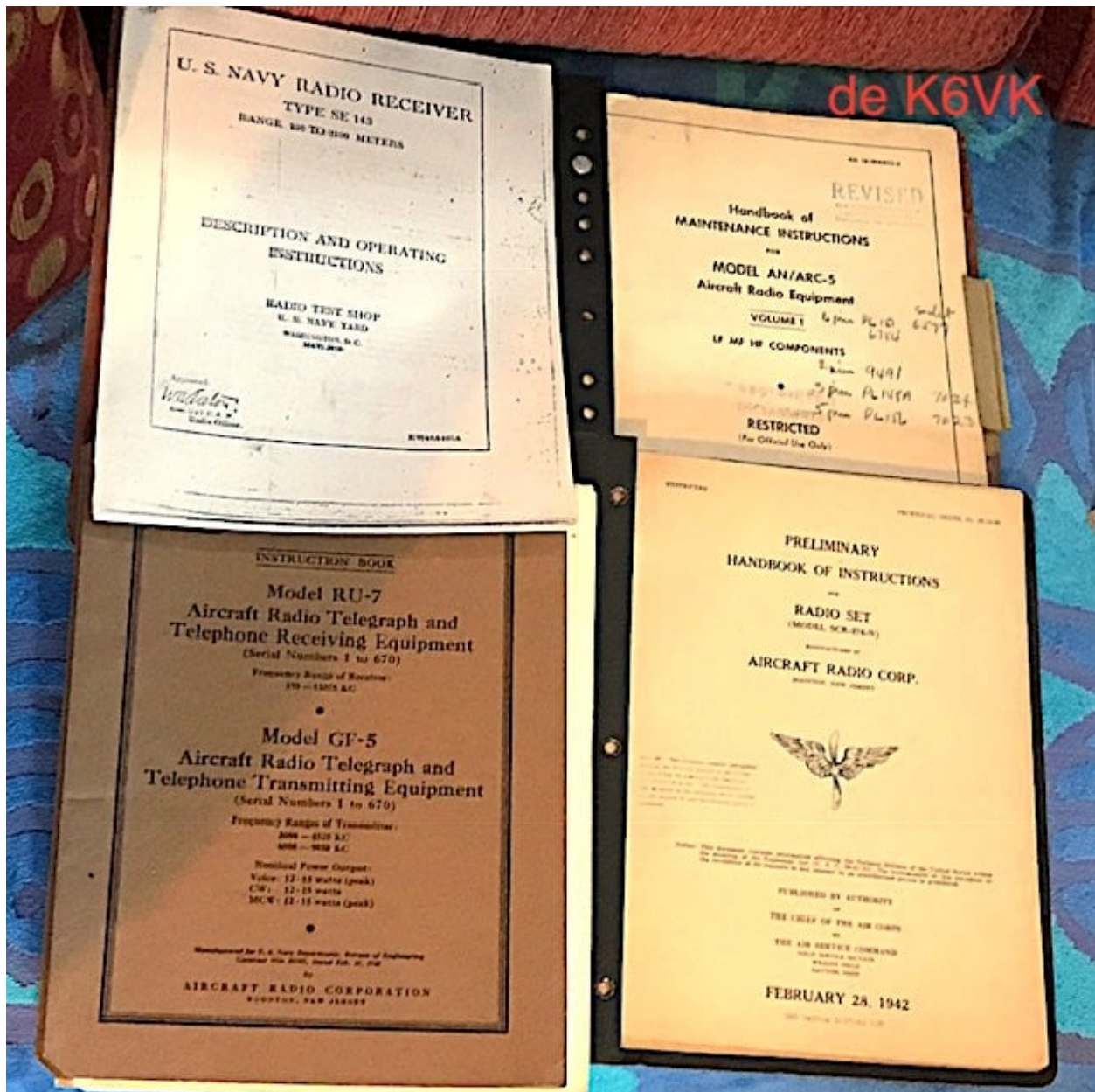
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The CHRS Archives just recently acquired ARC-5 etc. radio manuals:

The ARC-5 and related radios served the Navy and Air Corps during World War Two. These radios kept pilots in touch with each other and their bases, carriers, etc. They were the "command" sets as opposed to the longer range "liaison" radios such as the larger BC-348.

As "War Surplus" these Navy and Army Air Corps radios made it possible for thousands of hams to get on the air. Military radio enthusiasts much favor them even today.

The CHRS Archives have now acquired a large cache of these and related manuals, going back to 1918 but mostly covering World War Two airborne radio equipment. (The manuals come by purchase funded privately).





The manuals cover the NAVY RU radio system, of which CHRS has a full set, and the ARC-5 and similar sets.



Some of these radios will appear in the Hall of Communications.

(21 XI '20, de K6VK) ##