Many of these sets were sold by the Atwater Piano Co.* of Queen St. (Stan Waters and Ernie Ball) and also by Ripley's Radios of Customs St. Quite a number were produced as AC/DC models at this time when an appreciable area of Auckland City was supplied with 230V DC power. Most, if not all, of these radios were fitted with 'Magnavox' speakers — a very fine speaker indeed. Incidentally, it is believed that Magnavox originated and patented the voice coil type of speaker (then referred to as the 'dynamic' type of speaker).

At about this time, Ellis & Co. obtained the agency for the American brand 'Espey', and imported a 6-valve dual-wave chassis which, if memory serves, was also marketed in NZ under the 'Temple' brandname.

Ellis & Co's factory was located in a suburban private house situated in Marsden Ave. Access to the manufacturing area was gained by climbing a vertical ladder inside a wardrobe. Up top, the ceiling joists had been covered with flooring, to provide a cramped and stuffy working area. Summertimes were then most remembered . . . ! These (now regarded as 'difficult conditions') were all taken in good part though. In due course of time, a move was made to a new factory a quarter-mile away, in Thorley St Mt.Eden.

Several people who spent a part of their early working lives in that suburban ceiling went on to greater things. One who joined the Air Force became an Instructor at Cranwell and Yatesbury; he later attained the rank of Wing Commander, and assumed charge of all Radar in New Zealand. His name will be well known to many Aucklanders.

* The name 'Atwaters' was supposedly made up from the firm's slogan 'Get it at Waters' - Ed.

1. Courier (pre-1932 only). 2. Pacific (pre-1936) 3. Stella. 4. Radion. 5. Courtenay.

'CAN YOU HEAR ME MOTHER ?'

Few, if any, N.Z.V.R.S. members are ever likely to have the opportunity of speaking on a BBC programme, but here is one who did, and it came about like this : During the last war the BBC ran a fortnightly programme — "Anzacs Calling New Zealand" — in which the N.Z. Servicemen who happened to be in London were invited to send brief messages and greetings to the folks back home.

One morning a BBC representative called at NZ Forces Club in Charing Cross Road to ask if anyone there would like to participate in a broadcast. Now it so happened that the person whose likeness is depicted above was on the spot at that very moment, and he lost no time in accepting the invitation. Who was he ? (See back page of this issue).

KNOW YOUR SLOGANS (2)

Arthur Williams writes to point out that the words 'The Radio you are Proud to Own' although used in the advertising of 'Colonial' radios was not actually the slogan. The correct slogan was 'Radio's Clearest Voice'.

Arthur has also sent in a list of slogans used by some NZ manufacturers in pre-war days . . .

1. 'Brings Tidings from Afar'
2. 'In a Sphere of its Own'
3. 'Proudly made, Proudly Owned'
4. ' . . . . the Aristocrat'
5. 'Known for Tone'

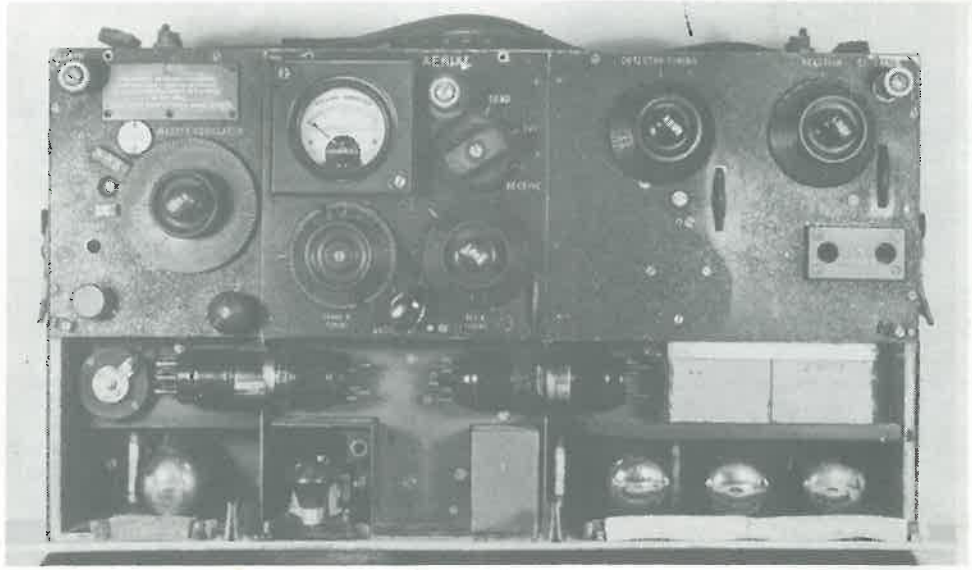
Edit Copy replacement for damaged original Oct 1998

NZVRS BULLETIN

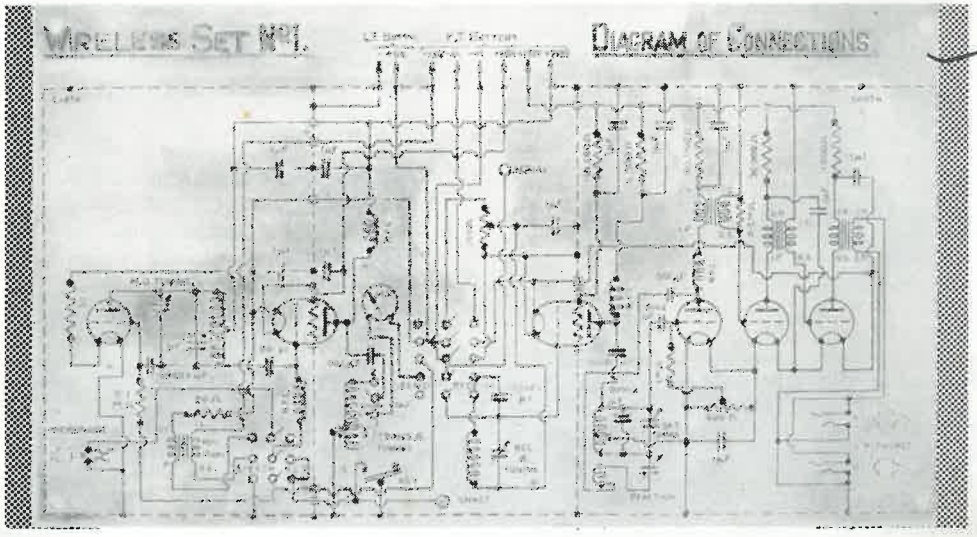
Vol.1 No.4 Feb.1981

NEW ZEALAND
VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

An organisation devoted to the preservation and restoration of early radio equipment, and collation of associated information



'NZ Army Wireless Set No.1' (upper). Brass diagram plate (lower). Eric Kirby's story on P.3



NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: Des. Wright
3 Coquille Place
Bucklands Beach
Ph. 535-8928

SECRETARY: Eric Kirby
10/29 Owens Rd.,Epsom,
Auckland 3
Ph. 603-054

Correspondence, membership enquiries, subscriptions: To Secretary, at address above.

N.Z.V.R.S. BULLETIN . . .

EDITOR: John Stokes
617 Dominion Rd., Mt.
Roskill, Auckland 4
Ph. 604-213

Contributions to the BULLETIN, and advertisements, should be sent to The Editor.

Regular meetings of the N.Z.V.R.S. are held on the THIRD Monday of each month except December. Out of town members are cordially invited to attend meetings when in Auckland. Venue: Supper Room, Dominion Rd. Methodist Church, 426 Dominion Rd. Time 7.30 p.m.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It seems to be a common characteristic of many vintage radio collectors that in appreciating the finer points of the apparatus itself they tend to lose sight of the fact, after all, the same apparatus is really only a means to an end – regardless of how beautifully constructed or how highly ornamented it may be. Not for nothing do those folk whose vintage interests lie in other areas sometimes casually refer to our beloved artifacts as 'hardware'.

This outburst of homespun philosophy was triggered off after listening to a three-hour tape recently made for my benefit by a friend, from his extensive collection of 78 rpm records. Without wishing to inflict details of personal tastes, it is sufficient to say that the tape consisted of 'hits of the day' from the years 1930-1940. Although listening to it was a quite unashamed nostalgia binge, it brought to mind the thought that this is really what it's all about; that is, if one's interests lie in the entertainment side of radio. So, to complete the enjoyment of a vintage radio, a vintage programme is called for.

Nowadays this is not such a difficult thing to arrange as might be imagined, for it is possible in some countries to buy cassette tapes of early radio programmes. You can even 'go the whole hog' and do your own broadcasting, by playing your tapes through a 'gramophone oscillator'; then you can really tune-in to radio's 'Golden Age' – but be sure you do not contravene Regulations, should you adopt this approach. *J.W.S.*

ORIGIN OF THE WORD 'RADIO'

As with many other scientific and technical 'borrowings', the term 'Radio' comes from the Latin, where it means 'ray' or 'radiation'. In English it was first used as part of a compound word which at the time had no connection with wireless, for the simple reason that there wasn't any. In April 1875 Sir William Crookes coined the word 'radiometer' to describe a light-sensitive instrument he had devised. Another such early word, 'radiophony', was used in 1889 in connection with landline telephony. Since then, 'radio' has appeared in such compound words as 'radiography' and 'radiologist'.

The first use in connection with wireless occurred in 1889 when Eduard Branly used the term 'radioconducteur' to describe his coherer, as it was known in English. In Dec.1898 one J.Munro, writing to *THE ELECTRICIAN* suggested the use of the single word 'radio' in place of the term 'space telegraphy' suggested by Sir Oliver Lodge, and, as we know, this suggestion was eventually accepted. From the foregoing it can be seen that, contrary to popular opinion, the word 'radio' is at least as old, if not older, than 'wireless', though it was many years before it eventually superseded the latter term. *J.W.S.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As from December 1980, all future meetings of N.Z.V.R.S. will be held in the Supper Room of Dominion Rd. Methodist Church 426 Dominion Rd. This church is located on the east side of Dominion Rd. between Milton and Herbert Roads.

Note also that the meeting night has been changed from the fourth to the THIRD Monday of each month. Starting time is at 7.30 p.m. as usual.

"WIRELESS SET NO.1"

By Eric Kirby

Back in the Fifties, while I was holidaying at a beach cottage about twenty miles north of Christchurch, I spoke to a nearby farmer on the 80 metre band.

In the course of that contact, I was invited to visit his farm situated a few miles outside Rangiora. I have long since forgotten the name of the farmer, his call sign, and the exact location of the farm. I can, however, recall two things about that visit — the warm welcome I received and his statement that it was his intention to "bury a lot of junk in the farm rubbish dump".

"Did I want an ex-Army transceiver from the junk heap ?" On displaying interest, I was shown a "NZ Army Set No. 1". It was in a rather sad state but nevertheless complete — except for thermocouple meter, microphone, and headphones. I accepted the offer, thinking that in spite of its age the set did not deserve such an ignoble fate.

I later got the set going, and remember getting an R.F. burn when I pushed the key before clearing my other hand from the aerial terminal. I observed that two of the valves were ARS6's. I had never seen such valves before; their design, and the brilliance with which their filaments glowed intrigued me, but I knew nothing of their origin until 1960 when I went to work for the Marconi Osram Valve Company in London. The history of these valves is, however, very much better known to our Editor John Stokes, who has undertaken to write something about them*, and to comment on their unusual function in the NZ Army Set No.1.

Incidentally, in the course of recent restoration work I have discovered that the transceiver was manufactured in 1934* by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd. It would be most interesting to learn whether it was to NZ Army specifications or was simply an adaptation of a British Army design.*

* When the now legendary (well, almost) first British screen-grid valve, the Marconi Osram S625, was issued late in 1927 it did not become an overnight success; in fact it became obsolete within quite a short space of time. Very few set-makers made use of this valve, though in 1928 the Marconiphone Co. did produce two receivers, models 44 and 61, using it.

The use of a 6-volt 0.25-amp thoriated filament made the S625 obsolescent at the time of its birth, and within a matter of months other valve makers (for example Cossor, Ediswan and Mullard) had more modern conventional style screen-grid valves on the market. The Marconi Osram Valve Co. themselves issued their new S215 before the end of 1928. After 1930 the S625 was no longer listed in the pages of WIRELESS WORLD's annual valve data, so quickly had it become a back number. But it had not been entirely forgotten — in certain quarters at least.

By 1934 the RF pentode had completely replaced the SG valve for use in domestic radio receivers but not, it would seem, in military radio equipment. The New Zealand Army Wireless Set No.1 used one S625 in the receiver RF stage and another in the output stage of the transmitter ! Even with a plate supply voltage of 210 volts (some 30 volts above normal) the RF output could not have exceeded a couple of watts. The military designation for the S625 was ARS6, and under this number it was made by Cossor as well as M.O.V. After all these years one can only ponder on the thinking that lay behind the choice of such a valve at this comparatively late date. *John Stokes*

* My set mfd by Aeronautical & General Instruments Ltd S/N 1447 (1937)
† According to Denny Burrage, the

Market place

WANTED

UV-201A valve, with word 'Radiotron' stamped in silver ink on base. Buy for cash or swap for other valves. GEORGE WESTON, 179 Rosebank Rd., Avondale, Auckland.

CABINET for Atwater Kent Mod. 188, and chassis Mod.70, Type L; also any info. on Golden Knight or Royal radios (latter made by Royal Eng.Co., Hamilton). MARK THOMPSON 36 Cranston St., Browns Bay, Auckland.

DISPOSING

Large quantity radio magazines. Radio-Electronics (USA), Electronics World (USA), Electronics Australia, plus others; all 1950-60's. JOHN STOKES, 617 Dominion Rd., Auckland.

Going for a song ! Cabinet for American Radiola Mod. 60. GRAHAM JESSOP, 26 Swainston Rd., Glen Innes, Auckland.

CORRECTION

In the last issue (Vol.1, No.3) of the BULLETIN two errors occurred in the illustrations to Eric Kirby's article on Marconi's birthplace. The caption to the picture at the top of p.2 wrongly stated that the plaque visible in the picture indicated the room in which Marconi worked.

Not so! The room in question was at the BACK of the house and is visible in the picture on the front cover of the last issue. Secondly, a photo referred to in the text was inadvertently omitted. It is included here (above), and shows the hill over which Marconi transmitted the first out of line-of-sight signals. Ed.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS . . .

In his younger days the writer, who lived in a DC area, had a number of banished batteries at his disposal. On occasions he used to ask the meter reader how to charge accumulators from the mains. Sadly, the meter man didn't know but had heard that if a current was passed through an accumulator then it had to charge.

After much thought it was decided to remove the fuse wire from a fuseholder on the meter board and, in place of this, secure a long lead to each metal clip contact. These wires were then attached to the bank of accumulators, using the house lights as a resistive load. So although no one could understand why the lights were so dim, the batteries at least were always full of vigour.

Not until many years later was it realised just how dangerous this practice had been . . . . . .

By 1937 the present narrator was employed by a radio establishment which, being in the central city area was supplied with DC power. This shop had as part of its workshop equipment a DC converter (to 230-V AC) and a 6-volt battery for checking car radios on; the former ran all day while the battery was used as required. Also a signal generator (earthed).

Here, it seemed, was a good opportunity to carry out the old trick of charging the battery by passing the converter input current through it. The idea worked very well and the boss was delighted. Until a car radio requiring alignment was connected up. As the leads were placed in position there was a tremendous explosion from under the bench — the converter stopped, the lights went out, and the battery was nowhere to be seen. Acid everywhere. All was silence.

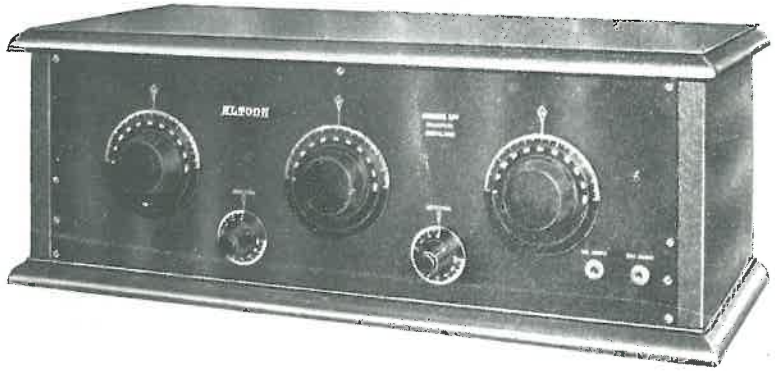
Presently the boss came out to see if a wall had fallen in. Somewhat hesitantly the 'accused' explained what had happened, and with every word the boss became increasingly agitated as to the whereabouts of the new battery he had bought just prior to the arrival of the new serviceman. All in all he was very good about it and never mentioned the affair again. Though it was quite some time before there was an increase in wages!

— *Alex Jefferys*

HAMMARLUND ROBERTS FOUR VALVE REGENERATIVE SET.

This set will operate with extraordinary success either on accumulator or dry battery valves. For those who cannot use accumulators, it is highly recommended.

Ten famous Radio engineers in U.S.A. collaborated in the design of the most efficient set at a price that would not be excessive. The result was the Hammarlund-Roberts set, in which the main essentials—the coils and condensers—were made by the Hammarlund Manufacturing Company, the accuracy and precision of whose products need not be dwelt on here.



ALTONA.

Read remarks on ALTONA GRAND, most of which apply to the ALTONA.

The ALTONA is also a five-valve set, of similar design to the ALTONA GRAND, and constructed with equal care.

COMPONENTS.

While its components are not of the extra high quality of the ALTONA GRAND, all apparatus used in it is guaranteed to be perfectly reliable (see our guarantee below), and much better than that used in similar sets costing half as much again.

RANGE, ETC.

It is as easy to instal and operate as the ALTONA GRAND, and as regards Range, Tone, Volume, etc., only slightly less perfect. Results obtained by large numbers of satisfied customers fully justify the claims we make for its excellent performances.

At the steps of the Temple !

'TEMPLE' RADIO

By Alex. Jefferys

TEMPLE radios, as originally sold in New Zealand, were manufactured by Templetone Canadian Ltd. — an offshoot of the Temple Corp. of Chicago. There were several models, one of which was a seven valve superhet using a 27 as a separate oscillator, and a 47 pentode output. The IF was 175Kc, and no AVC was used.

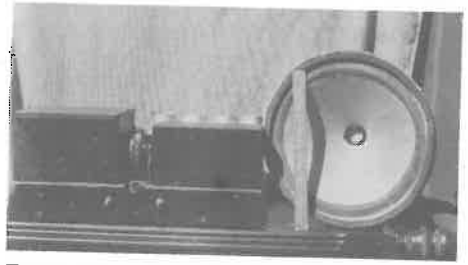
Another model was a 9-valve TRF, using push-pull 45's. It had a large green-painted chassis and baseplate — so large in fact that two baseplates made very adequate mud and weather shields for this writer's BSA motor cycle ! This model was supplied with a 14-inch speaker with the cone edge attached to the frame by means of flexible leather strips. It was sometimes sold in radiogram form with a Garrard turntable (variable speed) and a heavy magnetic pickup. On radio, it had a very good tone indeed.

With the collapse of the American and Canadian companies in the Depression, the NZ Distributors (Ellis & Co. Ltd) retained the name with a view to manufacturing locally. This writer recalls, as a boy, helping Bert Hill of Marsden Ave., Auckland, assemble test and fit into cabinets a considerable number of kitsets supplied by Radio Ltd. (then of Rocklands Ave.), which might otherwise have been sold under the name 'Ultimate'. However, this was a stop-gap measure while Bert Hill laid the foundations for a similar radio, though of different design.

For quite a long time, coils continued to be obtained from Radio Ltd., the kit consisting of a preselector, oscillator coil, and 175Kc IF's.

It was a practice of the time (since many local manufacturers used the same 'Efco' Australian dial mechanism, to take the escutcheons along to Youngs, the engravers in High St., to have a suitable nameplate attached. As the main brand name used was 'Temple', specially made enamel badges were affixed to the escutcheons. In cases where retailers wished to sell under their own names (such as 'Lyric' in the case of Ripley's Radios), the escutcheons were hand engraved to order. Thus it was a simple matter to satisfy the needs of smaller Retailers.

Later, with a new round 'aeroplane' dial from Australia, a 6-valve two-band and a 7-valve three-band models were developed. These had no RF stage on short-wave, but instead had two IF stages.(262 Kc.). Short-wave performance was somewhat indifferent, and inclined to be too 'hissy'.



Front view of chassis and 14-inch speaker

1931 'Temple' 8-valve chassis