

AFR  
ACA

FORT CLAYTON  
CANAL ZONE  
5000 WATTS  
790 KCS



"CROSS ROADS OF THE WORLD"

Armed Forces Radio Service  
Box 10  
Fort Clayton  
Canal Zone  
10 November 1950

Kernit Geary  
RFD # 2  
Walnutport, Pa.

Dear DX'er,

The United States Armed Forces Radio Station ACA, with studios at Fort Clayton, and transmitter at Corozal, Canal Zone, is happy to verify your statement that you read our signal on 790 kc from 0949 GMT to 1039 GMT Sunday, 22 October 1950.

We have heard from 29 listeners who reported hearing us on our special DX broadcast that day, and in each case identification is positive.

The broadcast had its amusing aspects. We had three phone calls during the program from listeners in the Canal Zone who wished to place requests for certain musical selections. And we learned from this broadcast that numerous local people leave their radios on on Saturday nights, depending on us to wake them gently with Stateside news at seven (local time) Sunday mornings. When we hit the air two and a half hours early, and with more than twice our normal power, the result must have been confusing.

A synopsis of the station log for the DX broadcast, with the names of the personnel participating, may be of interest to you. Times are GMT:

0929:30 Army Pfc Robert L. (Bob) Potter of Princeton, N. J., opened the program and followed with music and station breaks: "On the Campus", "Accent on Rhythm", "On the Trail", "Row, Row, Row", and "I Don't Care if the Sun Don't Shine"; then introduced Army 1st Lt Joseph B. (Joe) Williams of Albuquerque, New Mexico, at

(MORE)

0947 Lt. Williams made stations breaks and used "Early in the Morning", "Improvisation", "Billy-a-Dick", "If You're Down in Texas", and "Simple Melody"; then introduced Army Pfc William K. (Bill) Law of Belleville, Michigan, at

1003:30 Station breaks and music followed: "Kenton's Fifth", "Back Talk", "I Wanna be Loved\*", "Four Brothers" and "Bewitched", until

1019 Army Pfc William B. (Bill) Terry of Ogden, Utah, took over without an introduction and used "Pattern in Old Lace", "That Old Black Magic", "Let's Take an Old Fashioned Walk" and "Laura", and introduced Army M/Sgt Francis E. (Frank) Prendergast of Chicago, Illinois, at

1034 Then followed station breaks and music: "Thunder Rock", "Beyond the Blue Horizon" and "The Whiffenpoof Song"; then introduced Army Sgt. Richard B. (Dick) Hill of Horseheads, New York, at

1051 Music used by Sgt. Hill was "Que Rico el Mambo", "I Almost Lost my Mind" and "Concerto to end all Concertos", turning the station back to the engineer, Bob Potter, at

1058 Station identification and take off were given, and at

1100 The National Anthem.

We all hope you enjoyed hearing us as much as we enjoyed doing the program and hearing from you. The enclosed weekly program schedule will give you our regular broadcast times (EST), and we hope that, under optimum conditions, you will be able to pick us up on our normal power of about 2kw. We used the Western Electric rig for the DX program, our new Collins being out of action with a blown transformer.

AFRS has one studio and two transmitters in the Canal Zone, and is the only broadcast band radio in the Zone (There are numerous stations in the Republic of Panama). Our second transmitter is located at Ft. Gulick, on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus to overcome transmission difficulties across the isthmus. It is 250 watts power. U til about a year ago, station call signs were WVJ for Corozal transmitter, and WVUB at Ft. Gulick. We are now authorized ACA on the Pacific side and ACB20 for the 250 watter. David Thomas of Proctorville, Ohio, states that he has verifications dated several years ago from both WVJ and WVUB. Relfe Luton of Elizabeth City, N. C., reports a verification in 1948 from the then WVJ. And Carroll Seth in Erie, Pa., says he logged us "3 or 4 years back", but his report to the station was never answered.


DX'ers from whom we've heard, and their approximate distances from the transmitter as best we can measure them on the polyconic map here at the station are:

- Hedley Simmonds, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; 2325 miles
- Derek Wharton, Chicago, Ill.; 2250 miles
- Harold Schrock, Paxton, Ill.; 2175 miles
- Robert Brown, Goshen, Ind.; 2250 miles
- Robert W. Gorsuen, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 2325 miles
- Don Kaskey, Galva, Iowa; 2425 miles
- Robert Emory Base, Baltimore, Md.; 2050 miles

Ernest Norman, Pompton Lakes, N. J.; 2200 miles  
Hubert Montvlet, Elberon, N. J.; 2175 miles  
Ernest R. Cooper, Brooklyn, N. Y.; 2200 miles  
Charles R. Martin, Jr., Brooklyn, N. Y.; 2200 miles  
James O'Brien, Jr., Brooklyn, N. Y.; 2200 miles  
Robert A. Spencer, Buffalo, N. Y.; 2300 miles  
George B. Holland, Jr.; Ithaca, N. Y.; 2300 miles  
Erick R. Johnson, New York, N. Y.; 2200 miles  
Bernard Duffy, Staten Island, N. Y.; 2200 miles  
S. A. Mann, Westbury, L. I., N. Y.; 2200 miles  
Relfe Luton, Elizabeth City, N. C.; 1850 miles  
David Thomas, Proctorville, Ohio; 1975 miles  
Paul A. Thomas, Proctorville, Ohio; 1975 miles  
J. W. Waldron Newman, Tiffin, Ohio; 2200 miles  
Carroll Seth, Erie, Pa.; 2250 miles  
Frank Wheeler, Erie, Pa.; 2250 miles  
Fred L. Van Voorhees, Lemoyne, Pa.; 2150 miles  
Robert W. Botzum, Reading, Pa.; 2150 miles  
Kermit Geary, Walnutport, Pa.; 2200 miles  
J. Warren Routzahn, York, Pa.; 2125 miles  
Phil Patterson, Amarillo, Texas; 2200 miles  
Kenneth F. Murphy, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; 2450 miles

According to our guessing at measurements, Kenneth Murphy of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, was the most distant listener; with Relfe Luton of Elizabeth City, N. C., the nearest. However, a Great Circle map might give Don Kaskey of Galva, Iowa, a good argument for distance.

With 73's from all members of the station staff,

  
JOSEPH B. WILLIAMS  
1st Lt                      ARTY  
Supervisor

Thank for your nice letter on our DX program. Seems as if you didn't have much trouble with us. Some of the fellows reported heavy interference from some unidentified carrier testing on our frequency. Glad you were able to read us so well. And thank for the "Enjoyable Program" comment.

We had a lot of fun putting the show on the air. None of us had ever done a DX program before, and we hope it meets with approved procedure. But, if not, we hope our verification will get you the credit I'm sure you want.

Let us know if you hear ~~HEAR~~ us again, which you might do with conditions improving.

  
JOE