

ARMED FORCES RADIO STATION

ALBROOK FIELD, CANAL ZONE

NOVEMBER 4, 1945

J. W. Brauner  
17 Spring St.  
Williamsville 21, New York

Dear sir,


This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 28th, in which you quite clearly indicate, that you have been receiving us in New York State. Other verifications indicate, that we are picked up fairly regularly in the East, as we have received letters from BCL listeners in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

I want to thank you for your letter, and for all the information contained therein. You may have ~~te~~ written to us previously, as lately we are receiving letters, which were mailed as early as 1942, but were held up due to improper addresses and also due to censorship. Our fading at around six AM is due as you suggested to daylight approaching.

Now for a bit of information concerning our rig here. Our main transmitter is on 790 kc., and is a 5000 watt job. We use a vertical antenna 380 feet in height. The base of the antenna is at sea level, and strangely enough we have difficulty in maintaining a solid signal on both sides of the Isthmus. We also broadcast on the shortwave "B" band on 2390 kc. with the power of 400 watts. That transmitter is on for two purposes namely to provide entertainment for the men down here, who have receivers capable of receiving communication frequencies only, and also is beamed to the outlying islands within a thousand miles radius, as this signal holds both day and nite.

The announcer you heard on the day you mention was Sergeant Ray Schreiner of Washington, D.C. Back in that part of the woods, he is known as Ray Leslie. The transmitter and control room are in separate buildings here, and both are air conditioned, as the climate raises hob with electronic equipment, that is not tropicalized, and so far not much broadcast equipment has been "defungused" or fungus proofed I should say.

I trust, that this will meet with your desire of a reply. I've been quite busy here keeping the rig putting out, and we do take care of quite a few remote broadcasts from various army and navy setups, as well as sport events in Balboa and other surrounding communities. My army career should come to a close within the next month or so, and I probably won't be around, if you do answer this letter at any time, but I'll always be glad to hear from you, even when I get back to the midwest in the good old U.S.A. If you ever get bit by the old "hambug", why listen over the bands for W 9 W T B, and we may exchange greetings by word of mouth via the ether waves.

  
S/Sgt. Howard M. Weil  
Chief Engineer AFRS, Panama

P.S. Our official call issued from Washington, D.C. is WVL, but we refrain from using it for reasons of a diplomatic nature.