Amateur Radio in Esslingen in the postwar years 1946-1966

by Rolf Schick, DL3AO

My first encounter with the Esslingen Radio Club was not very inviting. I was greeted with "Kerle, du muesch drausse bleibe, gang no wiedr hoim ond ess Spätzle bei dr Mudder" (Boy, you have to stay outside, go back home and eat spaetzle with your mother) when I wanted to attend the founding meeting on the evening of May 13, 1946, at the Hindenburg restaurant, across from the engineering school on Kanalstraße in Esslingen. The doorman was right. I was 13 years old and the hall was packed with men who seemed ancient to me and new ones were constantly streaming in. The grief was all the greater when my companion and friend Kurt Fritz (later DL1CR) managed to sneak past. But he was also already 15. I had rebuilt an audio circuit with a triode REN904 at home according to a principle circuit I found in the "Großer Brockhaus" (an encyclopadea). It should permit me better receiving than my old crystal detector. Unfortunately, the headphones only emitted a mains hum. When in the local newspaper the foundation of the radio club was announced, the case was clear: This must become my club.

Foundations of clubs were regarded with suspicion by the military government one year after the end of world war two. With much effort, Eugen Zeh succeeded in obtaining a license to found the Radio Club. Until 1933, Zeh had been a member of the board of the Arbeiter-Radio-Bund, which had been banned by the National Socialists. Zeh was therefore not suspected of wanting to found a club for any conspiratorial activities under an assumed name. Nevertheless, I got into the meeting after all. Because of overcrowding the door was not closed. I stayed behind the entrance. A friendly person came up to me "come in, maybe we'll create a section for pupils". At the end of the meeting I

was even able to hand in an application for membership. A little later I became a member of the Radio-Club Esslingen with the membership number 68.
The desire for membership in the Radio-Club was not only based on technical curiosity and interest in joint radio tinkering, "Radio Basteln". Radio sets, and especially radio tubes, were in short supply in 1946. As a member of the Radio Club, people hoped that it would be easier to obtain a receiver or spare tubes. As expected, Eugen Zeh was elected First Chairman. In my memory, Hermann Straub became 2nd Chairman or Technical Director. Straub owned one of Esslingen's leading radio stores, "Radio-Straub", in the Mittleren Beutau (near the market square where the Ringstrasse cuts through the row of houses today). Straub was competent in radio technology. Under his direction, "courses for beginners and advanced students in electrical and radio engineering" began after the summer vacations in 1946 in the building of the then trade school on the Blarerplatz. The courses were completed with an exam and prizes. I still have the capacitor today. I think I got it for the 5th place.
Eugen Zeh was professionally a master mechanic at the company Reitter and Schefenacker in Oberesslingen. In my memory he was no deep expert in radio technology (the word electronics was uncommon). But he was an excellent club chairman and organizer. In negotiations with the city he achieved that a small house (called "Bastelheim" by us) in the garden of the Altes Krankenhaus ("Old Hospital") , at the corner of Grabrunnenstrasse and Ebershaldenstrasse (today there is the City Hall) was given to the club. We met there without having extra costs for eating, which was especially important us young people. The non-tinkerers of the association met weekly in the "Kugelsaal" in Bahnhofstraße. Today, there is a supermarket.
Joint radio tinkering was fun and also my Audion worked in the meantime. But in the long run this condition was not sufficient!
It did not remain hidden that within the radio club a small group developed an unusual activity. If one had the opportunity to sit near them, sometimes strange

sounds came to the ear: QSO, CQ or S.A.C., an abbreviation for Saturday Evening Club (not to be interpreted as Sende Amateur Club !). The group was said to have separatist tendencies, secession from the Radio Club was feared. In the official meetings, the club board did not always speak affectionately of the "Kurzweller" ("the shortwavers") .

Tuesday evenings the Kurzweller met in the Bastelheim.

lng. Rolf Huber (later DL1LU) was the speaker for the shortwaves. He had spent some time in the DASD (Deutscher Amateur Sende und Empfangsdienst , the German Amateur Radio Club from 1927-1945 , forbidden after the end of the war). Other active members were Helmut Lutz (later DL1CX), Georg Kocher (later DL3EK), Bert Schneidewind (later DL1HT) and August Ströhlein (later DL3ET). In winter 1946/47 Rolf Huber started a Morse code course and gave advice for building a 0-V-1 (a direct conversion shortwave receiver with the meaning: no RF preamplifier stage (0), one audio stage (V), one AF amplifier stage (1)).

Consequently, my Audion was upgraded to a 0-V-1 receiver. The first entry in my shortwave log is dated 6/28/1947, D4AQV, James T. Hall, an American officer, whowas transmitting in a Villa on the Panoramastrasse (now Mühlbergerstrasse) with a BC610 and 500 W plate modulation. You could hear him in a wide radius in normal radio receivers on medium wave! CM5V, G5CL and MD9DC followed, all 20m.

At the end of 1947 Kurt Fritz and I were able to pass the DE examination (A German Award for Short Wave Listeners in Amateur Radio). The diploma hangs on my wall, DE8395, signed by Kurt Schips (today DL1 DA).

But the activity as SWL (Short-Wave Listener) should not be of duration, higher consecrations were aspired. In the summer of 1946, the Württemberg-Badische Radio-Club (W.B.R.C.) was founded with Egon Koch (later DL1 HM) as the first chairman.

The board of the Radio-Club Esslingen decided to join the W.B.R.C. as a

umbrella organization, unsuspecting that this club was full of potential HAMs. This caused great antagonisms between the club members in Esslingen. I remember one point when it was about to find the name of the future club magazine. The Radio Amateurs choose the title "QRV". With QRV it should be shown that the German short- wave amateurs are again "ready to transmit". Eugen Zeh did not like this name at all, he wanted "Radiobastler" or something similar. In a discussion fever, he exclaimed, "we need a short title." Georg Kocher from the radio amateur gang dryly replied "what is shorter than QRV?".

The "shortwave section" in the W.B.R.C. developed more and more to the nucleus of a future radio amateur association.

In the years 1946 and 1947 it was not opportune to use the word "Radio-Amateur" or "Funkamateur" in the public. Transmitting with radio waves ("Funken") was illegal and subject to severe penalties . But amateur radio could not be stopped so easily. With the tolerance of the U.S. Signal Corps (cf. Körner: Geschichte des Amateurfunks) but suspiciously observed by the resurrected German authorities with sovereign tasks, "transmitting licenses" with DA call signs were issued by the S.A.C. in Stuttgart starting in 1947, which allowed "under cover" operation on the radio amateur bands without too much danger. A callsign list from 1948 shows for Esslingen: DA 1 GA "Max" (later DL1LU), DA1GG "Kalle" (later DL3ET), DA1GM "Heini" (later DL1CX), DA1GN „Joe" (later DL1HT) and DA1GW "Hans" (later DL1HL).

At a meeting in Frankfurt in January 1948, it was decided to combine the individual radio associations of the BiZone (American and British occupation zones) into a German Amateur Radio Club (D.A.R.C.). I do not remember the further fate of the W.B.R.C., it was condemned to insignificance and soon disappeared from the scene. My membership card 1948/49 already carries the DARC rhombus and the name German -Amateur-Radio-Club Württemberg-

Baden (seat Stuttgart). 1950 the individual regional associations were united to a club, the today's DARC.

From the summer of 1948, examinations were held by the German Federal Post Office to obtain in the future an amateur radio license and a call. Licenses, however, were not available until March 1949. My license certificate bears the date of March 23, 1949. According to the law on amateur radio, a minimum age of 18 years (in exceptional cases 17 years) was required. I was 15 years old and the youngest licensed radio amateur in Germany. My thanks still go today to the examiner from the Bundespost who intentionally or unintentionally ignored my age.

Club Activities


RADIO-CLUB ESSLINGEN
Mitglied im W. B. R. C.
MITGLIEDSKARTE
HERRN S C HI C K Rolf
GEB. AM 2.6.33 BERUF
WOHNUNG Esslingen/Neckar/ Katharinenstr.62
MITGLIED SEIT 13.5.46 NR 68
DER VORSTAND:


Deutscher-Amateur-Radio-Club
Württemberg-Baden (Sitz Stuttgart)
Mitglieds-Ausweis 1948/49
Name: Schick Vorname: Rudolf
Beruf: Schüler geb. 2.6.33
Wohnort: Esslingen
Straße: Katharinenstr. 62
DE-Nr.: 8395 Rufzeichen:


D A R C
Deutscher Amateur-Radio-Club
Ortsverband Eßlingen
Mitgliedsausweis Nr. 4941
Name: Rolf Schick
Anschrift: Eßlingen Plochingerstr. 43
DE 8395 DL 3 AO
Ausgestellt am: 1. Jan. 1951
1951


VEREIN TECHNISCHER FORTSCHRITT E.V.
Mitglied im W. B. R. C.
MITGLIEDSAUSWEIS
HERRN S c h i c k, Rolf
GEB. AM 2.6.33 BERUF
WOHNUNG Esslingen, Plochinger Str. 43
MITGLIED SEIT 1948 NR. 68
DER VORSTAND:

The membership cards show the transition from the Radio Club Esslingen to the W.B.R.C..
In 1951 the radio clubs of the individual countries united to form the D.A.R.C.. The Radio Club Esslingen became the Verein für Technischen Fortschritt (V.T.F.). My membership number 68 was retained. It shows that the V.T.F. was also the successor of the Radio-Club Esslingen in terms of association. The V.T.F. developed into the widely known and important Technical Academy Esslingen.

The following pictures show the club guesthouses for the meetings in the various times.

Bild 1: In diesem Gebäude in der Kanalstrasse war die Gaststätte "Hindenburg", in der im Mai 1946 der Radio Club Esslingen gegründet wurde

Bild 2: In der Grabbrunnenstrasse, hinter dem damaligen "Alten Krankenhaus", befand sich das "Bastelheim" des Radio Club. (Im Bild etwa an der Stelle des Krans). Hier trafen sich Dienstag abends die "Kurzweller" des Clubs. Im Februar 2004 Grossbaustelle für die Stadthalle

Bild 3: Rechts der Metzgerei Wühler befand sich die Gaststätte "Hirsch". Von 1950 bis zum Abriss (etwa 1958) OV- Lokal

Bild 4: Nach Schliessung des "Hirsch" war für einige Jahre die "Reichsstadt" der Treffpunkt am Dienstag abend.

Links oben: Um 1960 konnten wir dank DL9CI das Häuschen am Neckarhaldenweg zum Clubtreffen verwenden. Winterkälte und Probleme beim Getränkenachschub liessen wieder einen Wirtschaftsraum suchen...

Rechts oben: Anfang 1960 wurde die Gaststätte Friedrichsau in der Martinstrasse Clublokal

Links unten: Ende der 60'er Jahre wurde der Palm'sche Bau Treffpunkt am Dienstag abend

Rechts unten: Zunehmende Motorisierung der OV-Mitglieder und Parkplatzprobleme in der Esslinger Innenstadt liessen gegen 1970 den Clubabend in das Lokal Sängerkranz in St. Bernhard verlegen

Links: Schwindende Teilnehmerzahl beim Clubabend in St. Bernhard liessen ein neues Clublokal suchen. DJ3JZ schlug für eine gerechte Verteilung der Anfahrtwege den Schwerpunkt in der Fläche des Kreises Esslingen vor. Die Gaststätte Stumpenhof oberhalb Plochingen kam dem sehr nahe...

Rechts: Seit den 80'er Jahren ist die "Traube" in ES-Liebersbronn am 1. und 3. Donnerstag im Monat Treffpunkt der Funkamateure.

The Radio Club Esslingen tried to enrich club life not only through technology, but also through social events. The venue was usually the Kugel'sche Saal in the Bahnhofstrasse in Esslingen. Well-known artists were invited. I particularly remember a so-called "colorful evening" in the Fürstenfelder Hof in Esslingen in the winter of 1947/48. The highlight was a performance by Albert Hofele, a well-known conferencer and entertainer from the radio.

Das Bastelheim ("The Radio Craft Home")

Front of the "Old Hospital". (Picture Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17. 11. 2002) Today the town hall stands there.

The building with the large garden area between Ebershaldenstrasse, Grabrunnenstrasse and Hauffstrasse was the Esslingen hospital until a new building was erected at another location around 1933. Subsequently, municipal offices were housed here. One of several little brick houses in the garden behind the house was made available to the Esslingen Radio Club. Tuesday evenings the "Kurzweller" met here from autumn 1946. Rolf Huber gave Morse code lessons, Felix Huber taught technology. Helmut Lutz taught high frequency technology at the chalkboard. As a student of electrical engineering at the T.H. Stuttgart, Helmut's explanations were often theoretical. Today I suspect he was repeating the material for the next academic exam with his evening lectures !

One evening he spoke about oscillators. My oscillator (An E.C.O., Electronic Coupled Oscillator) was anything but frequency stable. T7 and T8 reports were common, a T9 rare. I hoped to learn something about winding techniques of coils, which capacitors I should use and how to dimension and build a good oscillator. Instead of that, a "Euler's equation" came up all the time, with which I could not do anything at all. Even my friend Kurt Fritz, who was already 17 years old and in the upper school of the Georgii-Gymnasium, was unfamiliar with the equation. It seemed to have nothing at all to do with H.F. technology. At home I looked in the Brockhaus Encyclopaedia of my parents. There it was written succinctly: Euler's equation is the number e to the power of (i times the number pi) and this is equal to minus 1. In school we used the number e=2.71... to calculate interest and compound interest, the number pi was known to me from the circle, a calculation with the square root of a negative number ended pleasingly quickly in school with k.L., for "no solution" (unfortunately, however, at this end my calculation leading to it was usually wrong !). And this crooked stuff should make my oscillator better understandable to me? Nevertheless, the equation was fascinating and spooky and required clarification. But Helmut's answer at the next meeting was as short as the equation: You will find out when you study at the T.H. !(T.H. = Technische Hochschule, Institute of Technology)

I talked about it with Kurt Fritz years later. The mostly spontaneous and off-the-cuff lectures of Helmut Lutz totally overwhelmed us young students. If he had told us when to use a mica capacitor and where to use a ceramic capacitor and how to calculate the inductance of a coil, it would have served our tinkering better at first.

We both came from homes without academic education. In the early 50's less than 5% of the pupils studied. Trade and handicraft were more in demand than theory in the first post-war years. But Helmut aroused our curiosity. His enthusiasm for mathematics in understanding electrical processes infected us. It

was much more exciting than our school mathematics with predetermined solutions. And we realized that theoretical knowledge saves us a lot of experimental trial and error. It was Helmut Lutz who let us know: There is nothing more practical than a good theory! The bacillus to study at a technical university was set.

A room in the Bastelheim served as a workshop. There was a work table with a bench drilling machine and tools for metal working. A soldering iron was carefully stored in a lockable cabinet. Until the currency reform in 1948, soldering irons were scarce and difficult to obtain. My own homemade soldering iron consisted of a round copper rod 5 mm in diameter, a handle from an old file at one end, the copper rod sharpened at the other end. A high load resistor of 1000 ohms was slid over the copper rod. To heat the copper for soldering I connected the mains of 220 V to the resistor !

In the garden of the "old hospital" there was a kindergarten. This included a large sandbox under a chestnut tree not far from our tinkering home. On summer evenings we often sat on the wooden frame around the sandbox. We boys (< 20 !) were then allowed to listen to the conversations of the old people (> 20 !), which were not always about technology (!). A realistic preparation for the coming life as an adult...

I'll try an enumeration of the gang: Kurt Fritz; DL1CR, Helmut Lutz; DL1CX, Rolf Huber, DL1LU, Herbert Greiner; DL1HL, Wolbert Schneidewind; DL1HT; Rolf Schick, DL3AO; Adolf Maurer, DL3EN; August Ströhlein, DL3ET; Heinz Jost, DL3PA; Walter Mück, DL3PF; Gerd Schömberger, DL3YY; Willy Hütt, DL6UR; Helmut Hengstenberg, DL9CI; Reimer Petersen, DL9JJ; Helmut Kimmel, DJ1BP.

With increasing prosperity in the early 50's, the time in the little Bastelheim came to an end. We now met every Tuesday evening in the restaurant "Hirsch". I have forgotten the starting time. End time not: It was the closing time at midnight!

Radios and material procurement

In the last days of April 1945, American tanks moved into Esslingen via the Panoramastrasse. The town was now under American military control. Notices in English and German announced measures for the behavior of the population. For example, they called for the confiscation of radios and cameras. Strict penalties were threatened for violations. What "severe penalties" could mean was well known to the population from the previous years. Certainly not all devices were handed in. If and when a return of the confiscated radios took place I forgot. In any case, this led to a severe shortage of radio receivers in households. Radios, and spare parts, were in short supply.
Many households still had detector receivers (which were not seizured !). Almost every boy carried out experiments with detectors and thus made himself independent of listening to the radio of his parents. Some peeled themselves out of this crowd and tried to reach a higher level with radio tinkering. For the components to do this, they were largely dependent on local radio dealers. Since ready made radio receivers were mainly sold "behind the counter", the store windows were stocked only with components.
There were five radio stores in Esslingen. In the first number of the magazine QRV from January 1947 all of them are represented with advertisements. Because of the scarce "hardware", they mainly highlighted their repair departments, especially with the regeneration of tubes, transformer windings and the restoration of defective electrolytic capacitors.

The leading radio company in Esslingen was Eberspächer in the Pliensaustrasse. The company was still in business until 1999 and the store was specialized in high quality goods; and in comparison with the other stores, it was furnished in a more elegant way. As a student, one hardly dared to ask for a resistance in the store. In the summer of 1950, I passed the "Mittlere Reife", an examination at the Schelztoroberrealschule for boys. In presentations to the public, the Esslingen employment office warned us students and their parents against continuing school to the Abitur ("Abitur" is the entrance examination to Universities). Too many graduates were unemployed. I therefore presented myself at the Eberspächer radio store for an apprenticeship as a radio mechanic. I showed my (thanks to amateur radio good !) school reports, my amateur radio license, mentioned my shortwave station and said I could pass the theoretical exam ending the apprentence already now. But this was obviously too much of a good thing. Perhaps the owner feared that I would modify all radios to shortwave receivers. Rejected! In retrospect, for both sides better so!

Of interest was the company Weisschädel. The company was established in 1946 with a lot of effort and with advertising to compete with the other radio stores in Esslingen. The shop window was the largest of all radio stores in Esslingen. The QRV magazine advertisement read "Weisschädel - Radio Technische Spezialwerkstätte- Die modernste und größte Werkstatt Süddeutschlands". Just as quickly as the store appeared in Esslingen, it disappeared again. The company ended in 1950 with fraudulent bankruptcy. Weisschädel was part of the company empire of Willy Bürkle. Bürkle and his companies were involved in a major sensational financial scandal (widely known as Bürkle scandal) in 1950 (See Wikipedia.org/wiki/Willy_Bürkle). The scandal also dragged down companies not directly associated with Bürkle. For example the company of Herbert Lennartz, DJ1ZG, in Tübingen (Fa. Lennartz-

Boucke). DJ1ZG's company was the largest manufacturer of radio equipment in southern Germany in the post-war period, next to Grundig.

Radio Hofmann was founded in the late 20's and was one of the old established radio stores in Esslingen. Its main store was in the Küferstrasse, a second store in the Pliensaustrasse. The store was a bit staid but respectable. It was focused on the sale of simple radios, but also offered electrical goods for sale. There were not many electronic parts, so it was not interesting for us students. My mother knew Mrs. Hofmann and our (pre-war) radio came from this house. After the unexpected death of Mr. Hofmann in 1948, the business was abandoned.

Radio-Straub was located in the Mittlere Beutau, near the market square and adjacent to our club restaurant Hirsch. Straub was the only one among the Esslingen radio dealers who was actively represented in the Radio Club. A good technician and teacher , from whose courses in the Radio Club I benefited a lot as a 13 and 14 year old. He had a good stock of radio parts and as a member of the radio club there was also some discount. After entering his store, one stood in the sales room, the workshop and the warehouse at the same time. All a mess and jumbled. I still remember the chaos today. After my debacle at the well-organized Eberspächer company, I briefly thought of Straub as a training company. After my father saw the store, this idea quickly ended!
The end of Straub came at the latest with the demolition of the building during the construction of the Ringstrasse at the end of the 50s.
The best and friendliest memories I have are of the "Egmont Baumgärtner Radio House" in the Unterer Metzgerbach. The business was newly founded in 1946. Baumgärtner had an Austrian accent. He was about 50 years old. I guess he came from Austria after the war. Baumgärtner's store was large, well run, and had two beautiful storefronts. He specialized in radio repairs and had a good

stock of spare parts and components. His problem was that he had a hard time competing with the old-established Esslingen radio stores with their long-standing customer base. In addition, there was the aggressive appearance of the other Esslingen radio newcomer, Weisschädel. There were usually few buyers in Baumgärtner's store. This meant that Kurt and I could often spend hours at Baumgärtner. How much we bought there I don't know anymore. It was certainly not much, our pocket money was limited. In my memory remains, how Mr. Baumgärtner advised Kurt and me long, patiently and friendly to our radio tinkering. We learned a lot from him. I mean, the store stopped around 1950. I don't pass the house in the Metzgerbach today without thinking of Mr. Baumgärtner with gratitude.

Radio business in Esslingen. Advertisement in QRV, January 1947.

With the currency reform in June 1948, from the old Reichsmark (RM) to the Deutsche Mark (DM), the market situation changed completely. Whereas before there was money and few goods, afterwards it was the other way around. A few

days after this drastic 100:1 money reform, soldering irons were suddenly displayed in the shop window of a radio dealer in Esslingen. An effective method of converting Reichsmarks into German marks.

War-Surplus Equipment and the "STEG"

Under American control, German agencies were able to establish a "State Acquisition Company," or STEG for short. Thinking that there would never be another war in the world, the American Military began to scrap their huge stocks of surplus war material in 1948. Three years of re-education and democratization were enough for the occupiers to give the Germans scrap or otherwise unusable made equipment without the fear of a hostile rearmament. Distribution was handled by the STEG.

In Ludwigsburg, near the U.S. barracks, there were large open areas where, for example, the smaller electronic units resulting from the dismantling of aircrafts were laid out. Tanks then drove over them. What was left over could be bought for 10 Pfennig /kg (about 10 cent/kg).

Somewhat larger and less damaged units were deposited in tents. The price per kilo was the same, but not everyone had access. The material stored here was to be used, among other things, to equip schools.

Stand-alone equipment, such as receivers, transmitters and frequency meters were made unusable by removing the tubes (In 1948, the rearmament of Germany was still to be prevented !). The merchandise department of the DARC/WB could acquire them afterwards over the STEG. The resale to the amateurs was done by the electrical shop of the mother of Kurt Lederer, DL1CW.

The STEG camp in Ludwigsburg became the Mecca for us amateurs. With the bicycle we drove from Esslingen to Ludwigsburg. We walked for hours on the

meadow and searched in the electronic units more or less crushed by the tanks for usable components. Once the physics teacher of the Georgii-Oberrealschule (G.O.S), Mr. Steiner, accompanied us. As a teacher he was allowed to enter the tents with the not or less damaged units . Disguised as helpers we were able to sneak in. I got hold of a switchboard with 16 Amphenol SO239 sockets, together with PL259 connectors hanging on cut cables. A valuable treasure with which I could trade other material. If I go through my tinkering box today, I still find parts from that time at STEG. Sometimes a memory comes up under which circumstances I found the part. I was 15 years old and every part, whether resistor, capacitor or coil was valuable.

The main problem in building a station was to get tubes. The advertisement of Kurt Lederer from the QRV of 1948 warns : All the gear (especially the famous BC348, the Command Sets, BC455 etc.) without tubes !..

Waren-Abteilung des DARC/WB

Folgende Geräte aus STEG-Beständen sind jetzt ab Lager lieferbar, äußerlich leicht beschädigt, sämtliche Teile bis auf geringe Ausnahmen jedoch einwandfrei. Sämtliche Geräte ohne Röhren. (Röhren demnächst!)

Sender BC 191 u. BC 375, zweistufige Tx MO-PA, 150 W, mit zweistuf. Anodenmodulator, Ant.-Abst., mit je 1 Tuning Unit für 40 od. 80 m, für Röhren 4×211, 1×10, Strombedarf 1000 V, 350 mA DM 43.—

Empfänger BC 433, Mittelwellensuper mit 3 Vorstufen u. 4 ZF, doch ohne Skalen u. Netzteil DM 40.—

Empfänger BC 453, (190—550 kHz) ZF 85 kHz, für Doppelsuper-Zusatz geeignet; — **BC 454** (3 bis 6 MHz) und **BC 455** (6 bis 9 MHz): jeweils 6-Röhren-Super für Röhren 12 SK 7, 12 K 8, 12 SK 7, 12 SK 7, 12 Q 7, 12 A 6 o. R. DM 15.—

KW-Sender BC 457 (4 bis 5,3 MHz), **BC 458** (5,3 bis 7 MHz), **BC 459** (7 bis 9 MHz), Tx VFO-PA 40 Watt, Röhren 1626+2×1625 (Endstufe leicht auf 2×807 zu ändern), var. Antennenankoppl. u. Antennenabstimmung. 457 u. 458 leicht auf 3,5 bzw. 7 MHz zu trimmen. Strombedarf ca. 530 V. 150 mA je DM 15.—

Modulator BC 456 zu obigen Sendern: Mod.-Verst. für Sg-Mod., Bestückung 1625, 12 J 5, VR 150 DM 15.—

2-m-Sender BC 625, kristallgesteuerter vierstuf. Tx m. 6 G 6, 12 A 6, 2×832, mit Modulator 6 SN 7, 2×12 A 6 und **2-m-Rx** BC 624 Super 3×9003, 9002, 3×12 SG 7, 12 C 8, 12 AH 7, 12 A 6 Tx u. Rx je DM 22.50

Transceiver BC 488 (420 bis 460 MHz) DM 18.— u. BC 966 (für 2 m geeignet) m. Umf. 18 V/450 V. 60 mA DM 30.—

Antennenabstimmkästen BC 306 Alugehäuse 20×20×50 cm m. ker. Hochleistungsschalter DM 4.50

Ferner: RT 34/APS 13 (Transceiver 420 MHz) DM 14.— u. RT 7/APN 1 (desgleich. DM 12.—

Konzentr. HF-Kabel 52 Ohm 200 Watt hochflexibel, nur 6 mm Außen⌀, voll amphenol-isoliert, Längen bis zu 60 m je m DM 0.70

Dipl.-Ing. Kurt Lederer DL 1 CW
Stuttgart W, Elisabethenstraße 31.

The war-surplus devices in Kurt Lederer's ad were all US-made. German-owned communications equipment, with a few exceptions (such as the Köln E52 receiver), was in little demand. In the British Occupation Zone (B.Z.), German military equipment, with KW receiver Anton or Tornister receiver Berta was far more common. We were U.S.-infected and fed up with German military equipment. In Esslingen, the military authorities, residing in the New Town Hall, set up a youth center (in the large half-timbered house on Landolinsteige, with a large inscription: "Artists and Craftsmen" !). There we could watch American movies, listen to American music (Glenn Miller !), read American literature (Zane Grey !) and, hard to believe, the American QST was available every month ! Soon we could annoy our English teachers with American imitated pronounciation. We had taken off our brown shirts and shoulder straps from the NAZI uniform, and we no longer had to shout out "that tomorrow the world belongs to us" while marching in step. We felt liberated and not occupied. A new and better life began.

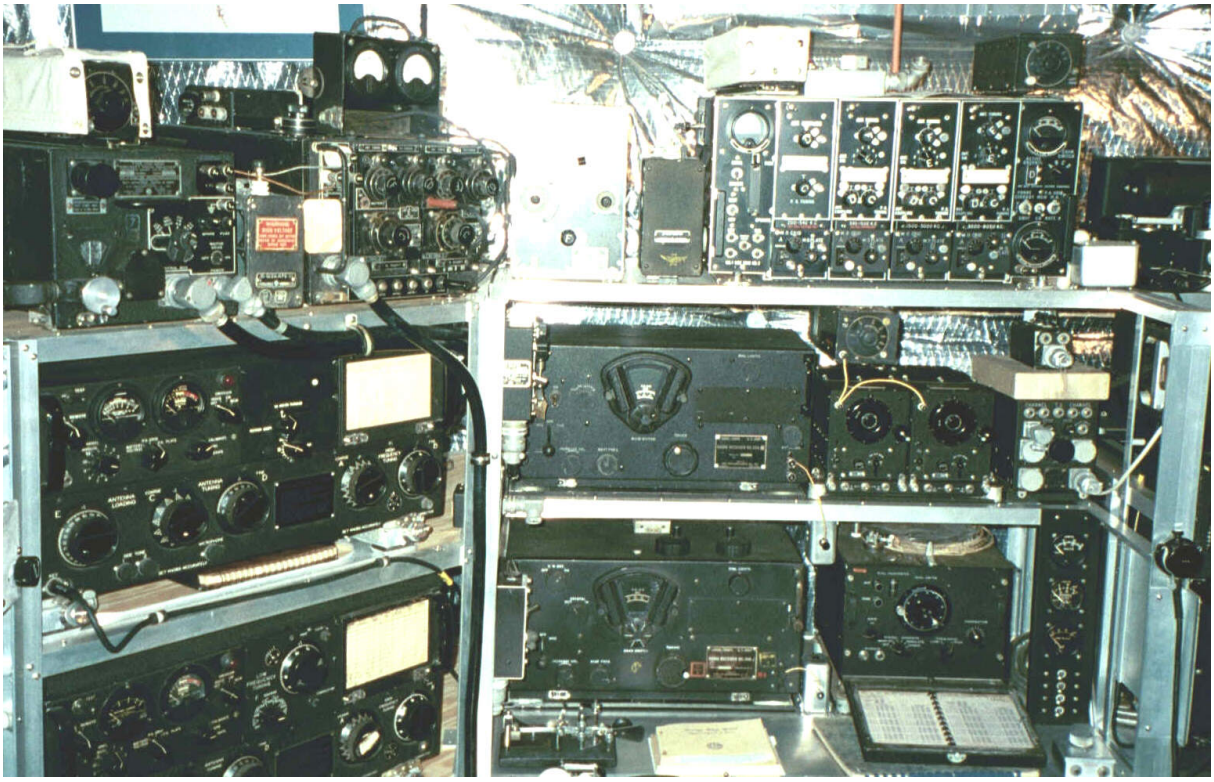
My first station after getting the license in March 1949 used modified "Command Sets". Receiver type BC454/455, transmitter BC457 . In the advertisement of Kurt Lederer the prices are given as 14 DM/piece. A pretzel cost 6 DPf in 1948, a glass of beer around 25 DPf. A price of 14 DM would correspond to a good 100 EUR today. The well known receiver BC348 cost around 70 EUR at Lederer in 1948. The price was too high for me. The frequency meter BC221 I could just afford.

The "Command Sets", or AN/ARC5, were used especially for communication between the units of the B29 aircrafts. For long distance communication (e.g. Germany - England) the BC348 was used.

Until the late 50's, amateur radio operators in the former US zone used mainly American receivers from war-surplus stocks. Fritz Trenkle describes in the book "Die deutschen Funknachrichtenanlagen bis 1945, Band 2: Der Zweite Weltkrieg" the technical leadership position which the German radio industry held. The introduction of pressed-cast chassis, ceramic capacitors with adjustable temperature coefficients, ceramic coils with burned-in gold windings, RF iron powder pot cores, and small-volume tubes was innovative and progressive. The designers' goal was predominantly to achieve the best possible readings. "Excessive secrecy regulations and lack of coordination in the demands of the three branches of the Wehrmacht, however, unnecessarily tied up many forces in development and production and led to a diversity of types that made production and maintenance difficult" (Trenkle).

The American K.W. receiver BC348 was roughly equivalent in specifications to the German KW receiver Anton. (KW-E a). Trenkle writes: "The KW-E a required some skill on the part of the radio operator to exploit all its possibilities (such as adjustable bandwidth, etc.). This led sometimes to difficulties, since with the majority of the German Wehrmacht radio amateurs had hardly chances to get to the radio". The weight of the KW-E a was 42 kg ! The German communication equipment was over-specified and not very purpose-oriented. Not only for military, also for amateur radio operators.

The development of American communication equipment was directed toward mass production, ease of maintenance and operation of the equipment, and practicality of use. After the war, it was left to amateurs to improve (sometimes worsen !) the associated limitations in sensitivity, selectivity, and stability through modifications.

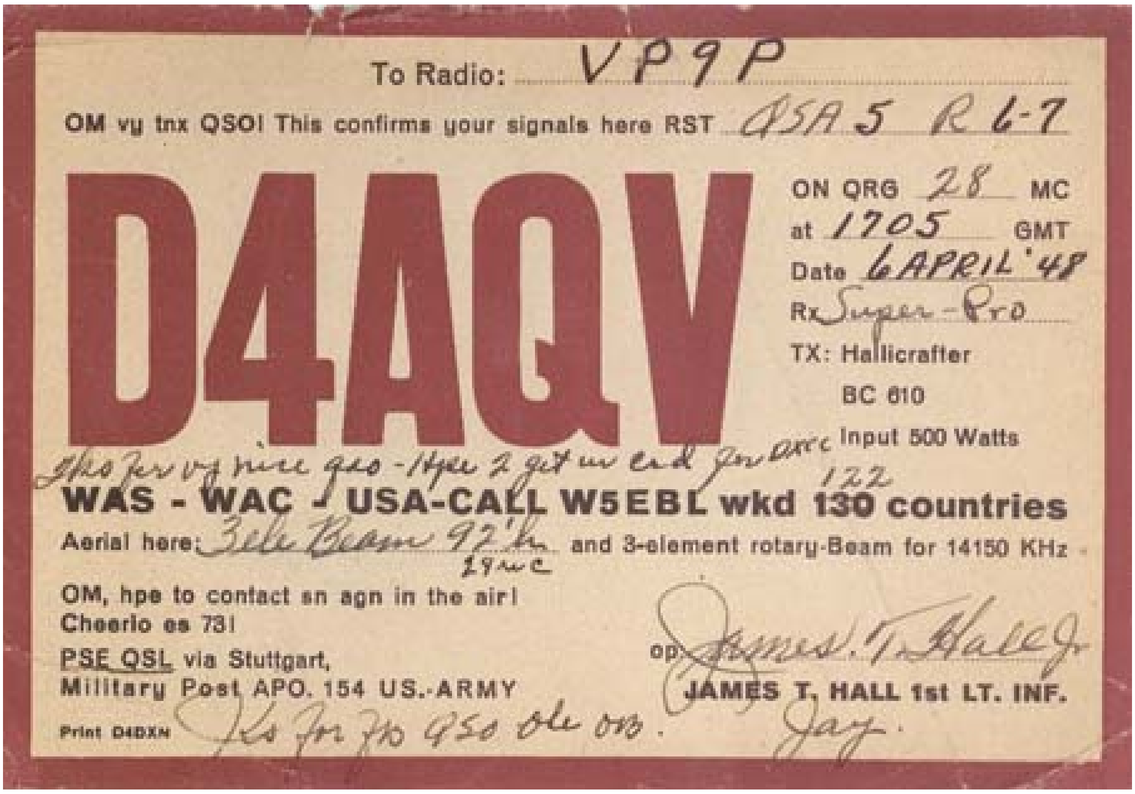


The less pleasant location for the operation before the equipment later landed with us as war-surplus!
Radio room in the "Flying Fortress B29". In the center 2 receivers BC348, next to them 2 receivers from the ARC5 series, BC453-455 (upper row) and a frequency meter BC221 (lower row). In front of the lower BC348 is the military version of a semi-automatic vibroplex ("bug"), type J36. It was the standard key in many shacks after 1950, until the electronic and fully automatic keys (e.g. ETM2) came into use.

American HAM's in Esslingen

As far as known, the very first transmitting amateur in Esslingen was the American Officer, James T. Hall, W5EBL and in Germany after 1946, D4AQV. Immediately after the invasion of the Americans, the residential houses in the

noble Panoramastrasse in Esslingen were requisitioned for the homes of ranking American Officers. The residents had to vacate the houses within hours. Where they found refuge was up to them.
James T. Hall was assigned a house in the lower Mühlbergerstrasse, next to the Katharinenstaffel. From mid-1946, a 3-element Yagi for 14 MHz could be seen on a mast in the garden. In addition, his amateur radio activity could be heard on all medium wave radios in the wider area !



QSL card from Jay, D4AQV. Probably the first amateur radio operator in Esslingen with permission to transmit.
Kurt and I lived about 100 m away from Jay`s QTH. We often loitered around the entrance of the villa. Sometimes we saw Jay when he was picked up or brought home with jeep and driver. However, our hope that he would discover us newcomers in hamradio and ask us to come to his station remained

unfulfilled! He was in contact with Herbert Greiner (under cover call DA1GW at that time, whether Jay knew that is unknown to me). There was a ban on "fraternization" in the early years and as a lieutenant Jay had to abide by it. Herbert worked as a technician after the war for the U.S. Signal Corps, repairing communication equipment. Jay became aware of him and Herbert assisted him with problems with his Super-Pro and BC610.

In 1948, Jay was transferred to Bad Cannstatt. I mean, he was a veterinarian by profession. He returned to USA around 1949 and was then active again under his old call W5EBL.

Without Jay, Kurt, DL1CR, and I probably would not have gotten into shortwave radio. We listened to his QSO's for hours, but didn't dare calling him with our little illegal transmitters.

In the early 50's the station DL4AAA appeared on the bands. It was a club station in the Nellingen Barracks. After making contact with operators of the station in QSO's they often visited our club evening at the "Hirsch". They especially enjoyed "Bier- Stiefel- Drinken" !. We got good friends with Bobby Bond, DL4TC. He also arranged for a jeep that allowed us to attend our first field day in June 1955. After returning to the USA, he was active under K4DMO. I had QSOs with him until his death in 2010.

We also came into closer contact with Ivan Egeler, "Ike", DL4VX, during his Army time in Nellingen. He sometimes brought us to American amateur radio meetings.

Feldtag Juni 1955, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
Bob, DL4TC (links) und Gary (SWL)

Fieldday 1955, Bob, DL4TC (left), and GI Gary (SWL)

European Field Days

After the restart of amateur radio activies with the end of world war two, the Amateur Radio Associations of Great Britain and Switzerland agreed to create a "National Field Day, N.F.D." to encourage QSO's between portable stations on mountain heights and ocean beaches. From the popularity of the N.F.D., the "European Field Day" developed in the early 50's.
The "European Field Day " took place at first only in telegraphy (CW). No problem for the participation of the OM in Esslingen. There was a bunch of good CW operators.
Our first participation in a F.D. was in June 1955. A reconnaissance trip promised favorable radio possibilities on a hilltop near Ochsenwang on the nearby Swabian Jura Mountains, 820 m a.s.l., , the "Auchtert". Our equipment park was however little suitable for portable operation. As "DX'ers we owned powerful stations, but they were built for stationary operation and definitely not suitable for rucksack transportation. In a joint effort the problem was solved: DL9CI had a vehicle available, DL4TC organized a jeep, the city youth committee in Esslingen lent us a large tent and Eugen Zeh, the former chairman of the Esslingen Radio Club, helped us with a power generator.
The receiver was a BC342 from DL9CI, the transmitter self-made by DL1CR with one RL12P35 in the power amplifier. Participation in the 100 W class. After the Stuttgart group, we obtained the the 2nd place for Germany. The aftermath showed clearly: We lost the first place by missing points on 80 m!

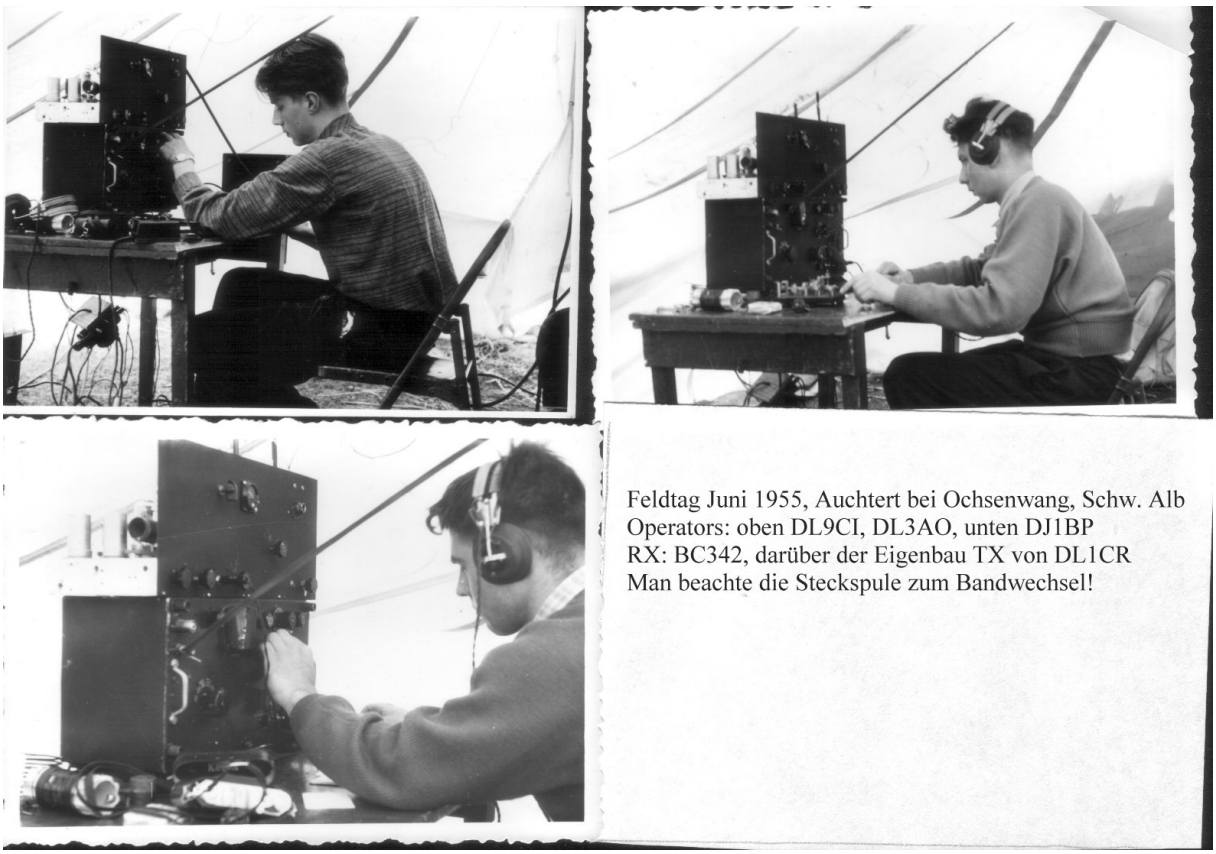
Spectulating 60 years later about the reason, the following seems possible:

1.) The 80 m band was frowned upon by us as only good for a "local Geschwaetz, a chatter band". We felt we were DX'ers and the higher bands were better for that. We thus missed the nightly European openings on 80 m with the majority of the low power portable stations, losing valuable triple points from the /p stations.

2.) The radio horizon from the Auchtert reaches far into the Löwenstein mountains. There is no shadowing by hills in any direction. Ideal for "Low-Angle DX Radiation". However, the water level in the karst of the White Jura is 100 m deep. As a result, even with low hanging antennas, there will be no preference for high angle radiation, which is needed for short-range QSOs.

3.) The beer bottles in the photo could indicate that the OM were kept from active station operation by a certain fatigue during the field day night.....

Field Day 1955



Feldtag Juni 1955, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
Operators: oben DL9CI, DL3AO, unten DJ1BP
RX: BC342, darüber der Eigenbau TX von DL1CR
Man beachte die Steckspule zum Bandwechsel!

Feldtag Juni 1955, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
Typisches Feldtagwetter.....
DL1LU, DJ2VU, DL1CR (v.l. nach r.)

Feldtag Juni 1955, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
DJ2MB (l.) und DL9CI, Jeep und Antennenmasten

Feldtag Juni 1955, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang.
Von links nach rechts:
DL1CR, DJ1BP, DL3AO, DJ2MB, DL9CI,
amerikanischer SWL, DL4TC, (später K4DMO), DJ2VU.

DL-QTC, Oktober 1955: Feldtagergebnisse 1955

Field Day 1955

Ergebnisse der Klasse I (1—3 OPs, input bis 10 Watt)

Platz	Station	Anz. d. QSOs	Punkte je Band					Multiplikator	Ges.-Punktzahl
			28	21	14	7	3,5		
1.	**DJ 2 JI/P**								
	DL 1 JW								
	DJ 1 HA	95	–	—	13	182	272	32	10252
2.	**DJ 1 FX/P**								
	DL 9 JE	92	–	–	18	334	122	16	7584
3.	**DL 1 HS/P**								
	DL 1 LT								
	DJ 1 BN	92	–	–	—	360	144	15	7560
4.	**DJ 2 HW/P**								
	DL 1 CO								
	DL 9 UI	96	–	—	—	310	198	14	7112
5.	**DL 3 BO/P**								
	DJ 2 FL								
	DJ 2 PJ	52	—	–	—	18	202	14	3080
6.	**DL 9 HE/P**								
	DJ 1 SJ								
	DL 9 RA	54	—	–	–	84	198	10	2820
7.	**DJ 2 AW/P**								
	DJ 1 TY								
	DJ 2 KQ	51	–	—	–	–	240	6	1440
8.	**DL 1 DA/P**	22	—	–	6	66	32	8	832
9.	**DL 6 ZN/P**								
	DL 1 TF								
	DJ 1 WG	38	—	–	–	—	120	6	710
10.	**DL ϕ MG/P**								
	DJ 1 TP								
	DJ 2 AV	22	2	—	—	—	94	7	672
11.	**DL 1 YQ/P**	15	—	–	—	–	50	5	250

Ergebnisse der Klasse II (mehr als 3 OPs, input 10—100 Watt)

1.	**DL ϕ ST/P**								
	DL 1 CP								
	DL 1 CS								
	DL 1 HO								
	DL 1 LV								
	DJ 1 BZ	206	—	2	106	386	542	36	34296
2.	**DL 1 CR/P**	151	—	—	192	432	186	29	23490
3.	**DJ 1 II/P**								
	DJ 1 IH								
	DL 9 IK								
	DL 1 JM	65	—	—	18	78	78	22	5676

Doch nun noch ein Rückblick auf den diesjährigen Field Day:

Die Station **DJ 2 JI/P** befand sich in der Nähe von Eschweiler bei Münstereifel, etwa 11 km SSW von Euskirchen. Die Lage war dort offenbar äußerst günstig, denn wie DJ 2 JI schreibt, soll dort in diesem Jahr ein Observatorium errichtet werden. Gearbeitet wurde mit einem TX von 8 W input; der Abstand bis zum nächsten Haus betrug 3—4 km.

DJ 1 FX/P befand sich auf dem Aussichtsturm Plochingen, in der Nähe Stuttgarts. Der TX hatte einen input von 6-8 W. Der RX enthielt die Röhren 1 LN 5, 1 LC 6, 2.1 LN 5, 1 U 5 und 3 Q 5.

DL 1 HS/P arbeitete etwa 2 km W Hülben bei Urach in der Schwäb. Alb. Der dreistufige 6-W-TX wurde über Zerhacker aus einer 6-V-Autobatterie gespeist. Der RX war ein 5-tb-6-Kreissuper, der aus Trockenbatterien gespeist wurde. Antenne: Allband-Windom, 41 m, 300-Ohm-Feeder. Sofern wir im kommenden Jahre den Termin des nächsten Field Day rechtzeitig genug erfahren, werden wir ihn auch früher bekanntgeben, lieber 1 HS. Beachten Sie bitte Ihre Punktzahl, sie ist um etliches höher gerutscht.

DJ 2 HW/P befand sich in einer Waldlichtung im Zentrum der Solitude-Rennstrecke. Die Entfernung bis zum nächsten Haus betrug 2 km. TX: zweistufig, input 7,5—8 W. RX: BC 348 mit Umformer. Vielen Dank für die Karte, lieber DJ 2 HW.

DL 9 HE/P befand sich in einem Gartenhäuschen einer Weinbaufirma in Hochheim (Main). TX: zwei- bzw. dreistufig, 3 x 6 F 6, versorgt mit Umformer aus 6-V-Akkus. RX: BC 342, ebenfalls aus Umformer. Als Antennen dienten drei 40-m-Drähte. Bis zum nächsten Wohnhaus betrug die Entfernung etwa 500 m.

v. l. n. r. ein Newcomer, DL 9 RA, OM Kleinhenz, DL 9 HE und DJ 1 SJ

DL 6 YQ und DL 1 YQ an ihrem 2 Watt CO-TX

DL 3 BO/P gab uns eine absolut exakte geografische Lagedarstellung. Unser Atlas konnte da allerdings nicht mehr mit. Er war etwa 600 m vom Dorf Steimbke/Moorwiesen entfernt. TX: ECO/PA, RX: Torn.-Empf. b, gespreizt. Input 9 W; Antenne: 78 m. Stromversorgung 12-V-Akku/Umformer 500 V.

DJ 2 AW/P befand sich am Rheinufer bei Neuß. Der TX: umschaltbar 80—20, 6 AQ 5 in der PA, versorgt aus fünf 12-V-Akkus über zwei Umformer. RX: Doppelsuper und TornE b. Antenne 2 x 40-m-Fuchs und 10-m-Faltdipol. Es stellte sich zu spät heraus, daß die Umformer auf 20 m störten - noch dazu fiel beim 13. QSO der TX aus. Nach 6 Stunden war er jedoch wieder klar. Wie DJ 2 AW schreibt, war das Wetter tagsüber zwar gut, nachts jedoch wurde alles bis auf die Haut feucht. Das Team ist aber trotzdem beim nächsten Male wieder dabei .

DL 1 DA/P befand sich in einem VW an der Solitude-Rennstrecke. TX: MO/FD/PA, 5 W input. RX: 1-V-1, Antenne 21 m, 2 m hoch. Versorgung: 6-V-Akku und Zerhacker.

DL 6 ZN/P befand sich im Kleinen Hagen am Stadtrande von Göttingen. TX: P 700 als Triode und als PA eine 2,4 P 3. Input: anderthalbe Watt! Der RX war ein kommerzieller Batteriesuper. Versorgung: Nickelsammler und 12 - V - Autobatterie über Zerhacker.

DL Ø MG/P hielt sich in einem Schrebergarten in unmittelbarer Nähe des Mönchen - Gladbacher Volksgartens auf. Als Stromquelle diente ein 6-V-Akku für einen Achtkreissuper und einen VFO/BU/PA mit 8,5 W. input. Die Antenne war 38 m lang.

DL 1 YQ/P arbeitete am Rande der Ortschaft Arensch in der Nähe Cuxhavens.

Der Field Day wurde, so gut es ging, mit einem kristallgesteuerten 2-W-TX bestritten.

Für die Klasse II hatte sich **DL ϕ ST/P** in der Sauhütte, im Walde SW Stuttgarts niedergelassen, auf dem höchsten Punkt, der sich in der Umgebung der Stadt befindet. TX: 100 W, RX: 75 A 3, aus Maschinensatz betrieben. Antenne: 50 und 100 m. Wie uns DL 1 CS schreibt, war 7 MHz weitaus am besten. 3,5 MHz war nachts recht gut brauchbar. Das 14-MHz-Band hatte stark wechselnde conds und relativ großen skip. Die QSO - Ausbeute hätte auf 14 noch größer sein können, wenn alle angerufenen fixen Stationen geantwortet hätten. Andererseits antwortete z. B. ZC 4 nur auf NFD-Stationen. Offenbar war dort die Ausweitung der Field-Day-Beteiligung nicht geläufig.

DL 1 CR/P war auf der Schwäbischen Alb in der Nähe von Weilheim/Teck. Gearbeitet wurde mit einer P 35, einem BC 342 und zwei 300-W-Benzinaggregaten.

DJ 1 II/P befand sich 20 km nördlich von Krefeld, 80 m über NN. TX: 30 W input, Einknopfabstimmung, Pi - Filter, 80/40/20. RX: 5-tb- und 11-tb-Super. Versorgung: mehrere Autosammler und Umformer. Antenne: 40 m zwischen zwei Masten 10-m-GP auf 8-m-Mast. Entfernung zum nächsten Wohnhaus 1 km, „. . . sämtliche Verpflegung, Trink- und Waschwasser mußten mitgebracht werden."

Soweit die Standort- und Stationsbeschreibungen. Wir hoffen, daß wir für den nächsten Field Day schon frühzeitig Vorausinformationen geben können.

Für die Durchführung des Field Days 1956 erfolgt eine Meinungsbefragung der Teilnehmer dies diesjährigen FD. Es soll festgestellt werden, ob die Regeln von 1955 auch im nächsten Jahr beibehalten werden sollen. In diesem Jahr wurden erstmalig alle 5 Bänder im FD-Wettbewerb eingeschlossen und der Multiplikator nach dem Vorbild anderer Wettbewerbe eingesetzt. Durch diese Methode ergaben sich bessere Arbeitsmöglichkeiten besonders während der Mittagstunden und im Endeffekt höhere Punktzahlen. Der Testreferent des DARC, DL 7 AA, sucht einen Mitarbeiter, welcher sich ausschließlich um die Belange der kommenden FD - Veranstaltungen kümmern soll. Es kommt nur ein OM in Frage, welcher an mehreren Field Days erfolgreich teilgenommen hat und über eine entsprechende Erfahrung verfügt. Wer meldet sich freiwillig?

— · · · —

The comments of the participating stations for the 1955 field day published in the DL-QTC are informative. Battery-powered stations in the output power class up to 10 W were in the foreground. This was primarily due to limitations in transporting the stations. Even a small car was an asset that few OM possessed. The basis of the power supply was mostly 6V or 12 V lead acid batteries. The required higher voltages were generated by converters (motor-dynamo) or choppers. Higher voltage dry batteries were also used for the receivers.

Field Day 1956

Feldtag Juni 1956, Albaufstieg bei Mühlhausen
Station im Lastwagen von DJ3JZ/DJ3VM
Von l. nach r.: DJ2MB, DL1CR, DJ1BP, DL3AO

Feldtag Juni 1956, Albaufstieg bei Mühlhausen
Die Küche

Our 1956 field day station was housed in a truck provided by DJ3JZ and DJ3VM. Station equipment similar to 1955. First place was now achieved, which we then occupied in succession until 1960 !

DL-QTC, Januar 1957: Feldtagergebnisse 1956

FDC-Ergebnisse

Klasse I (QRP bis 10 Watt - 3 OMs

Station	Punkte	Input	QSOs	Multipl.	Ant.-Anzahl	Team DLs	Team DJs
DL 1 JW	16072	10	158	28		1 JW	1 HA 2 JI
		QTH: Billiger Wald					
DJ 2 HW	13216	8—9	140	28	1	9 UI	1 IA 2 HW
		QTH: Solitude					
DL 1 HS	6614	6	111	17	1	1 HS	1 BN 2 VP
		QTH: Wasserturm Remstales					
DL 6 ZN	5066	7—8	94	17	2	1 TQ 6 ZN	2 KU
		QTH: Wartberg bei Ronsdorf					
DL 3 ZA	4815	7	100	15		3 ZA 9 BJ	1 BW
		QTH: Aussichtsturm Wunnenstein					
DL 1 HY	4470	4	86	15		1 HY 3 LG	2 GO
		QTH: Juxkopf/Heilbronn					
DL 1 EU	2040	10	65	10	1	1 EU 1 IL	2 QV
		QTH: Rebstock/Fftm.					
DL 3 YL	1936	10	60	11	1	3 YL —	—
		QTH: Rhein-Main Flughafengelände					
DJ 1 ZH	1760	6	68	8		6 FI 9 IE	1 ZH
		QTH: Große Wanne/Pfuttingen					
DL 9 IM	1500	5	73	6	1	9 IM 9 NG	—
		QTH: ?					
DL 1 BA	1488	8	35	12	1	1 BA —	—
		QTH: bei München					
DJ 2 RG	1116	2—3	39	9	1	— —	2 QT 2 RF 2 RG
		QTH: Schloßborn/Taunus					
DL 1 TE	864	4—8	33	8		1 TE 1 TJ 6 ZU	—
		QTH: Doppelhäuser Wiese					
DL 3 BO	828	7—8	33	9	1	3 BO —	2 PI 2 PJ
		QTH: Wohlenhausen/Nieburg					
DL ϕ MG	576	10	46	4	2	— —	1 TP 1 TQ 2 AV
		QTH: Herongen an d. DL/PA-Grenze					
		Klasse II (QRO bis 100 Watt — 3 OMs)					
DL 1 CR	24840	100	195	36	2	1 CR 3 AO	1 BP 2 MB
		QTH: Schwäb. Alp					
DL ϕ KH	21352	50	181	34	2	16 OMs	OV Karlsr.
		QTH: Mautzenberg					
DL 1 JW	19516	10	158	34		1 JW	1 HA 2 JI
		QTH: Billiger Wald					
DL 1 AO	19460	100	156	35	4	9 GH	1 JB
		QTH: Kapellenberg/Taunus					
DL 1 FF	14464	60—70	126	32	1	1 FF	2 DD 2 LK 2 LM
		QTH: 10 km NW Rendsburg					
DL 9 SN	11424	30—40	102	34	2	9 SN 3 AV 2 Anw.	1 LN 2 HI 3 BB 3 BD
		QTH: Gahlen-Besten Rhld.					
DJ 1 II	6048	50	92	21	3	— —	1 II 1 IC 1 IH
		QTH: Salhuysiner Berg/Krefeld					

'DL 1 JW bat um die Wertung in Klasse I und II. Die Station war auf 4 Bän-tern in Betrieb. Nach der Ausschreibung konnten in Klasse II vier Bänder als Multiplikator benutzt werden, in der Klasse I nur zwei Bänder!)

The 1956 field day shows a marked increase in stations in the class up to 100 W. It is partly due to the increasing motorization in DL.

Field Day 1960

Feldtag Juni 1960, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
Man vergleiche den Fahrzeugpark mit dem Feldtag 1955!

Feldtag Juni 1960, Auchtert bei Ochsenwang, Schw. Alb
DL3AO am bug, RX Collins 75A4 , TX Hallicrafters HT32

How fast the living conditions improved in the German afterwar "Wirtschaftswunder" ("economic miracle") within five years show the photos of the field day 1960. Instead of the war surplus BC342 a Collins 75A4 receiver was used, instead of a home made transmitter a Hallicrafters HT32 was in operation. Impressive is the Mosley TA33, 3-element Yagi, on a crank mast. A pole was used to guy a dipole for 80m and 40 m. Have a look to the cars in comparison to 1955 !

The evaluation of the contest now shows the same number of stations in the low-power and high-power class. With a clear lead over the team from Karlsruhe the first place was achieved.

Ergebnisse Klasse A (bis 10 W)

Platz	Rufzeichen	Team	Inp.	QSOs	Pkte.	QTH
1.	DJ 2 HW/p	2 HW - 2 VO - 2 VP - 2 VS - DL 9 UI	10	219	38563	Waldteil Blutbuche Markung Leonberg
2.	DL 1 HY/p	DJ 4 DI - DL 1 HY - 1 CS - 3 YT	10	232	37444	Juxkopf Krs. Heilbronn
3.	DL 1 JW/p	DJ 1 HA - 2 JI - DL 1 JW	10	185	27470	2 km S Euskirchen
4.	DJ 1 II/p	DJ 1 II - 1 IH - 4 OD - DL 1 OL 6 AD 6 IY	10	166	23693	Schardenberg 15 km N Krefeld
5.	DJ 2 FL/p	DJ 2 FL - 2 PJ - 4 NH - 5 YF	10	159	18830	17 km NO Nienburg/ Weser
6.	DJ 3 CS/p	DJ 3 CS - 3 SW - 4 CA - DL 9 LX - 3 YS	10	159	16416	Hardberg 2 km NO Mosbach
7.	DL 3 ZA/p	DJ 1 BW - 2 GO - 4 DM - DL 3 ZA	9	145	15934	Haigern 6 km S Heilbronn
8.	DL 1 OF/p	DJ 3 KQ - DL 1 EP - 1 OF	10	155	9728	Elliehausen 6 km NW Göttingen
9.	DJ 2 RF/p	DJ 2 RF - 2 RG - DL 4 JM	10	77	5400	Alteburg 5 km SO Idstein i. Ts.
10.	DL 6 RW/p	DJ 4 QM - DL 6 EW - 6 RW - 9 PA - 9 UV	9	95	5040	Fischerhütte b. Waldburg 15 km O Ravensburg
11.	DJ 1 SL/p	1 SL - 1 YG - 2 OV - 4 NZ	10	66	4840	15 km NW Hannover
12.	DL ϕ SF/p	DJ 2 JX - 5 DZ - DL 9 OL - 9 XO	10	108	4394	Nähe Sonthofen
13.	DL 1 BA/p	1 Mann	8	18	280	Nähe Oberammergau
14.	DL 1 SY/p	1 Mann	2,5	11	84	Worms, Herrnsheim, Bubenberg
	DJ 3 RD/p	DJ 3 RD - 3 RE - 1 QP	10	85	—	6 km SW Euskirchen

Kontrollogs schickten

DJ 4 AU	32
DL 3 VI	25
DJ 1 HJ	7
DL 9 DB	6

Ergebnisse Klasse B (bis 100 W)

1.	DL 1 CR/p	DJ 1 BP - 3 JZ - 4 CI - 5 DD - DL 1 CR - 3 AO - 9 CI	100	406	85995	Auchert b. Kirchheim u. d. Teck
2.	DL ϕ KH/p	DJ 1 TC - 2 NN - 2 IB - 5 JH - 5 JK - DL 1 FI - 3 OJ - 1 BH - 9 OS	100	315	60146	Forsthütte Mautzenkopf 22 km S Karlsruhe
3.	DL 6 FF/p	DL 3 XM - 3 XS - 6 FF	100	390	57500	Ludwigshafen-Altrip
4.	DL ϕ FD/p	DJ 3 CT - 3 GY - 3 HH - DL 3 VH	60	293	54810	Menzingen Bauwald 280 NN
5.	DL ϕ ST/p	DJ 1 BZ - DL 1 CU - 1 DC - 3 GZ - 3 FW	100	304	54080	Weidacher Höhe, 25 km S Stuttgart
6.	DL ϕ WB/p	DJ 2 GL - 5 MG - 5 GF	70	229	35834	Zimmerer Berg b. Pappenheim/Mfr.
7.	DJ 2 CM/p	DJ 1 FN - 2 CM - 5 JI	90	209	33041	14 km WSW Heidelberg
8.	DJ 1 VC/p	DJ 1 VC - 4 MF - DL 6 PI	60	240	32955	Nähe Schevenhütte/Eifel
9.	DL ϕ MZ/p	DJ 2 XP - 4 SB	100	265	30634	Rodelberg bei Mainz
10.	DL 6 JN/p	DJ 1 QS - 1 AN - 1 AV - 1 HV - 4 QR - 5 JC - DL 3 VU - 6 JN	80	187	30300	Tüllinger Berg 5 km NO Basel
11.	DL ϕ WR/p	DJ 1 ZG - DL 3 JV - 6 FA	80	200	28079	Bolberg Krs. Reutlingen
12.	DL 3 YQP	DJ 2 JD - 2 JE - DL 3 YQ	90	243	22596	Montabaurer Höhe 550 m NN

August 1956: A DX-pedition to the Principality of Luxembourg

In August 1956, four Esslingen OM, DL9CI, DL1CR, DL3AO and DJ2MB started a trip to the Principality of Luxembourg. The country was little represented on the Ham bands at that time and was considered to be a "Rare Country". How this DXpedition came about and how the expedition went is brilliantly described in the article written by Kurt, DL1CR. It appeared in QST, the ARRL's club magazine, in the December 1956 issue. There is little to add to the article. Later reports from DXpeditions classified it as "classic."

During a preliminary drive through Luxembourg, Helmut, DL9CI, passed a water tower in Hosingen ideally located for HF radiation and declared it to the destination of our trip. The community of Hosingen is located in the northeast of Luxembourg, not far from the border to Germany. Water towers, high and exposed in the environment, are really only surpassed by lighthouses as sites for radio. Sixtyfive years later, I still admire Helmut's optimism to be allowed to set up an amateur radio station with large antennas in this water tower, and furthermore to live in the water tower, and how to get a connection to a 220 V power grid ? The time was 10 years after the end of the war, and we were in a country occupied by Germans during the war. With Helmut in the lead, we went to the mayor of Hosingen, showed our radio permits, which we had picked up the day before at the P.T.T. in Luxembourg. We explained to him amateur radio and our intention to make amateur radio operators all over the world happy by a radio connection with his country. We were given, and without restrictive regulations, the keys to the tower door and best wishes for a successful operation.

In retrospect, I find the confidence in us exceedingly remarkable. Water reservoirs are safety-sensitive facilities in the supply of the population. Any

freshman chemistry student knows enough ways to cut off entire cities from the water supply with just a few grams of organic substances put in.

We were in the water tower, but no access to a power connection could be found! Around hundred meters away was a farm. The farmer allowed us to draw electricity from a power outlet in his barn. From there, we took the electricity to the water tower via a two-wire line ("Klingelleitung", "Housedoor Bell Line") that was loosely attached to wooden poles. The friendliness and the confidence of the people in Hosingen towards us strangers from Germany was immense.

The municipality of Hosingen built the water tower in 1952 as a replacement for the 1932 tower which was destroyed during fighting in January 1945. We were able to set up our station on the wood-paneled upper floor and reside there. The tower height is 30 meters, and from the windows at 20 meters we stretched "sloping wires" 80 meters long in the four quadrant azimuthal directions. Needless to say, the radiation was excellent!

Unlike today, where DXpeditions (or stations that think they are!) run the QSOs automatically from the computer, we made the QSOs individually. Each QSO contained full callsigns of both stations, as well as an RST adapted to the signal. A proper greeting, thank you, 73, etc., in the QSO was inevitable according to the prevailing customs in amateur radio..

Returning home our mailboxes overflowed with QSL cards sent directly. Many thanked us for the "new country". Up to now in QSOs Helmut and I are still addressed to the fact that they worked us as /LUX.

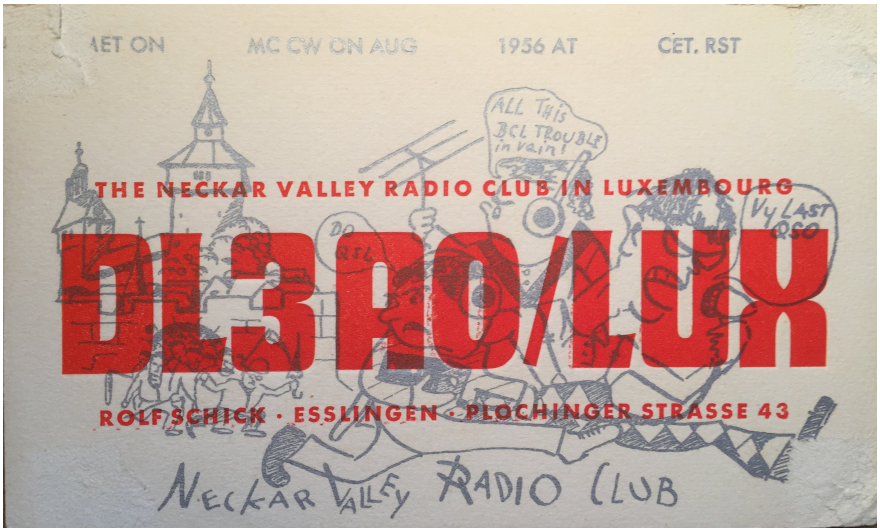
The Water Tower in Hosingen, Luxembourg.

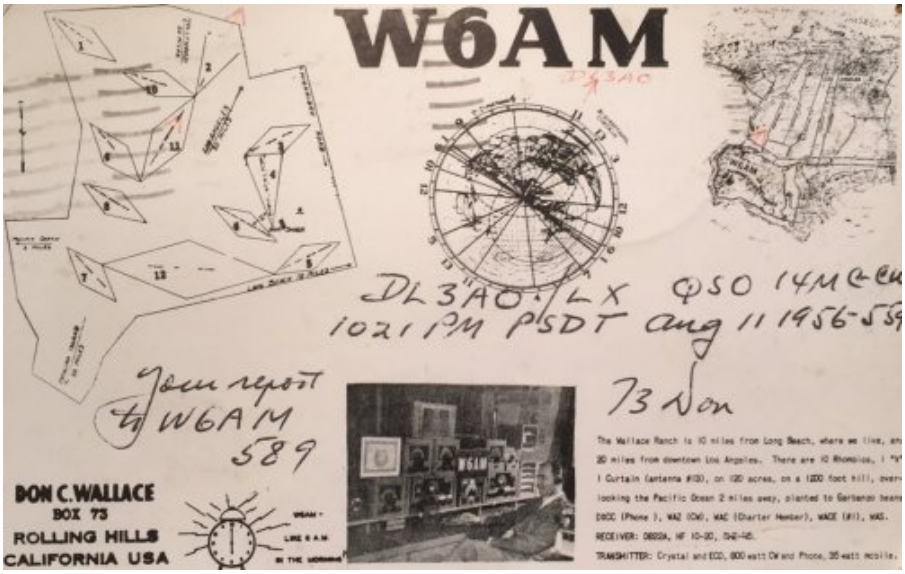
Before the start to LX ! Four people and all radio equipment had to be transported in the Volkswagen !

Ankunft in Hosingen (Luxemburg), August 1956
von l.: DJ2MB, DL1CR (in Hocke), DL9CI, DL3AO

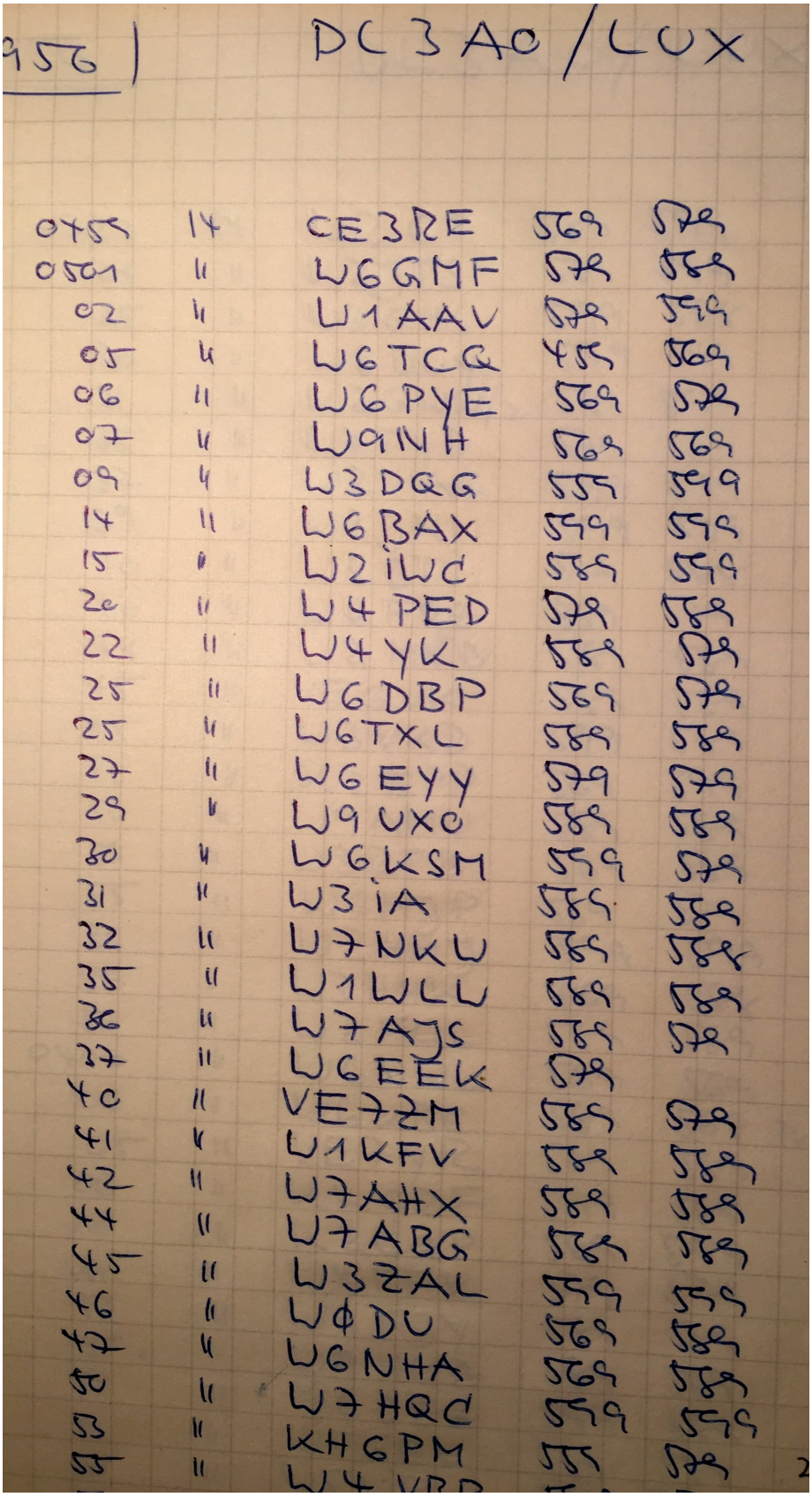
Arrival at Hosingen

DL3AO at the station in the water tower





QSL from Don, W6AM, unforgettable operator and unforgettable station



956 | DC3AO/LUX

0455	14	CE3RE	569	58
0501	"	W6GMF	57	569
02	"	W1AAV	58	559
05	"	W6TCQ	459	569
06	"	W6PYE	569	58
07	"	W9NH	569	569
09	"	W3DQG	559	559
14	"	W6BAX	559	559
15	"	W2IWC	589	559
20	"	W4PED	579	589
22	"	W4YK	589	579
25	"	W6DBP	569	579
25	"	W6TXL	589	589
27	"	W6EYY	579	579
29	"	W9UXC	589	589
30	"	W6KSM	559	579
31	"	W3IA	589	589
32	"	W7NKW	589	589
35	"	W1WLW	589	589
36	"	W7AJS	589	579
37	"	W6EEK	579	
40	"	VE7ZM	589	579
41	"	W1KFV	589	589
42	"	W7AHX	589	589
44	"	W7ABG	589	589
45	"	W3ZAL	559	559
46	"	WØDU	569	559
47	"	W6NHA	569	589
50	"	W7HQC	559	559
53	"	KH6PM	55	579
55	"	W4VRD		

Out of the 20 m paper log of DL3AO/LUX
Oldtimers surely remember some of these calls !

Two Thousand QSOs Later

The Neckar Valley Radio Club in Luxembourg

BY KURT FRITZ,* DL1CR

IT ALL BEGAN in a cool, windy November night last year, when Rolf, DL3AO, and myself were joined by Hel, DJ1BP. We talked shop and were just admiring the guys of last year's DXpeditions, when Hel suggested, "Why couldn't we do a thing like that, too?" Yes, why not? But where to go? You must know that all of our members who could be won for such an object are students, which meant expenses were not to exceed 100 Deutsche Mark or some $25. And this excluded any expenditures for the rental of a car. But transportation was later on provided for in a generous way by Helmut, DL9CI, and his father.

Well, where to go now? What would our fellow hams like to work most? First of all, Vatican City; every active ham will know why we did not go there. Then San Marino — knowing of DL1CU's threefold failure in securing a license it was nothing doing. Pelagian Islands are too far always. Albania is behind the Iron Curtain: Monaco was too well covered by earlier expeditions: Andorra was very well taken care of by PX1EX this and last year. "But what about Luxembourg?" was thrown into the discussion. There we were. In the heart of Europe, some 400 street kilometres from Stuttgart, was a country that played hard to get, on telegraphy at least. To prove our point, hams were interviewed in QSOs during the following weeks, how they would appreciate a contact with Luxembourg. Response was so encouraging that preparations were begun immediately.

A letter to DL1JB of DARC effected one to LX1AI of RL, who answered to the effect that foreigners were but never granted amateur licenses in Luxembourg, at the same time promising, however, the aid of RL in possible negotiations with the Administration des PTT. It was learned later, after an exchange of letters between the Bundepostminister of the Federal Republic and the Directeur des PTT of Luxembourg, that on a mutual basis hams of both countries could operate in the neighboring lands. Foreign stations set up hereby in Luxembourg for a stay of less than one month will use their home call with a /LUX suffix, such with a longer sojourn will get a LX5 call. With the way thus cleared, actual business began. Early August was set as working date, because school holidays started in this month.

Logistics

Different jobs were assigned to each participant. So Helmut, DL9CI, was chief of transportation, which included looking for and finding an ideal transmitting site; Rolf, DL3AO, was caretaker of antennas and housing, the tents he procured were used for sofas only, though; Harold, DJ2MB, acted as chef and gasthouse proprietor, who served two brands (and two kinds at that) of coffee every day, also soup and bread for dinner. The label of the soup bag was shown around always, too, but this was merely self-defense. Nevertheless, three cheers on those stout men who kept the basement kitchen and QRP gas stove running. Finally, myself, Kurt, DL1CR, signed responsible for transmitter, power supply, and converter. To those, who reported T8 it might be said here, that we fetched our power from a garage 500 feet away, which resulted in an appreciable voltage drop every time the key was pressed. I sincerely hope, however, that nobody's heart broke when he sent us T8 instead of something worse, merely because you do not give T7 to a /LUX.

Le chateau d'eau, as seen from a southeasterly direction.

And now, the Neckar Valley Radio Club to Luxembourg. We started to collect parts here and there on Thursday afternoon, took farewell from parents and friends at a party at the "Hirsch" on Thursday night, could still be

* Katharinenstrasse 64, Esslingen, Germany.

Left to right, the operators: DJ2MB, DL3AO, DL9CI, and DL1CR.

♦

found packing on Friday morning, August 10, did an amazing job of filling every nook of a Volkswagen with radio gear and even managed to squeeze in four full-sized hams. Having wept wet all our handkerchiefs nothing could hold us back any more and so we left, driving over the Autobahn on to the Palatium mountains and down to the Moselle valley, with pitifully little time to appreciate the beautiful landscape and wines. Near Trier the border was crossed with the formality of depositing security for our equipment on the Luxembourg side of the border. Luckily nothing had to be unpacked, and the list of parts which was prepared for the customs officer was cut into half by said gentleman in order to fit a form. We arrived in the City of Luxembourg on Friday night, half an hour too late to reach the post office for our licenses. So we unsaddled for the night in Luxembourg, taking a stroll through the town before turning in. Luxembourg is an old fortress and many structures point to this past. We were sorry to have to leave that fine city so soon. Finally, our Volkswagen stopped at the foot of the Chateau d'eau of Hosingen. This water tower has been destroyed during the war and rebuilt afterwards much more to fit our needs than the old one could have done, as we were told later. A power line led up to our chateau, ending abruptly 150 feet before it. Now how?

Strategy

First ask the maitre of Hosingen for permission to use the tower, which was granted readily and free of charge. We were even allowed to sleep there. This suited us excellent, of course. The tower was built like a giant smoke stack, with a narrow staircase spiralling up along the inner wall until the first floor was reached some 50 feet above ground. Then you entered a closed room, which had two windows and the ceiling of which was formed by the concrete water tank. Other stairs brought you up to the second floor and another closed room, the inner walls of which were the sides of the water tank, the outer ones were of wooden boards with plenty of windows. Fellows, you cannot dream up a better place for your stations. High, free, good ground conductivity, in short — perfect. Incidentally, Radio Luxembourg wanted to erect a powerful short-wave station on a hill very close by but was denied. So they started building a bit further away. This only to strike home the fact how good our site was.

Second we had to introduce ourselves to the local gendarmes, to whom Monsieur Knaf of the PTT had already announced us. He was a most cooperative man, our thanks to him.

Third we needed power. The local electrician was interviewed but could not help us directly. He lended us 150 feet of cable, however. This came in very handy, because we finally got electric power from the garage mentioned above and had to run our power line through the shop and then over a vegetable garden. But from there we were high enough to use our own cable, the insulation of which was not beyond any doubt. Electric power is rather expensive in Luxembourg, by the way, because the country has no coal pits of its own and practically no water power. But since our rig ran at a little below 10 kilowatt hours per day we could endure. We did not meet one person who had not been helpful and friendly; we even were invited back.

Fourth, antennas. We had selected 80 metres tilted long wires for ease of erection and coupling to the transmitter tank. The driven end was some 60 feet above ground, the far end about ten. We used three of those wires hung up after taking compass bearings. One ran 70 degrees West, the second due South, and the third 80 degrees East. There was a difference of about two S-points even with reception. So every antenna did what was expected of it.

Many a metrekilogram had been done in the mean time carrying our gear up to the second floor. But then, for what purpose does a ham go on vacation? Again we managed. A table was nailed together of the lid of the case in which the power supply was carried and some laths, the case itself served as a stool. The table had a length of 20 inches and a width of 15 inches. On it a BC-342 was placed, on that stood the transmitter, at the receiver's side stood bug and send-receive switch and before it, log book and pencil. If you start calculating now you will arrive at the result that something had to hang over; it was the receiver. The BC-455 10 and 15 metres converter swung on a string from the left handle of the BC-342. In general, string is a most useful tool on expeditions or field days, replacing insulators, nails, etc.

Operations

Then we began. On 80 metres, Saturday night. CQ de DL1CR/LUX K. DL1CR/LUX de DJ1BP. Well, well, the first contact with good

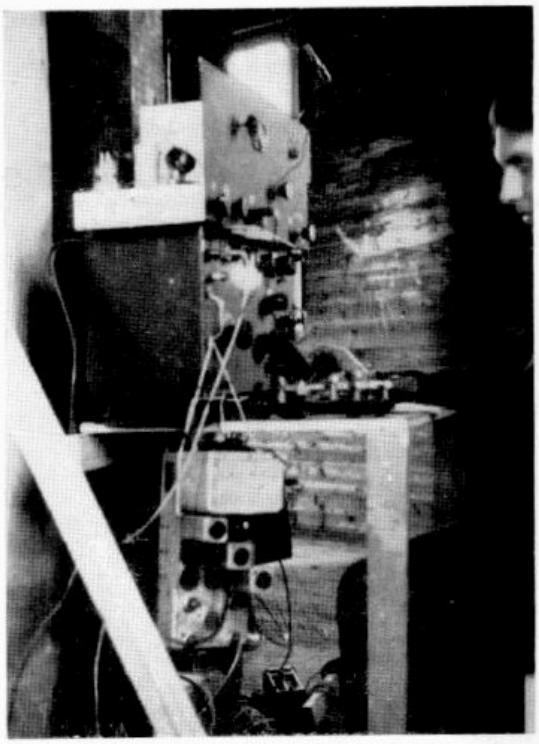
old Hel of our home town. All OK. Pse QSP all well to our parents. CU daily at 2200 CET on 80. 73 SK. QRZ? Nothing, nothing . . . nothing. How about eating something and worry later? OK, let's go. It was a long time since morning anyway. After supper. Still on 80. CQ de DL1CR /LUX K. Nothing. Try a long call with /LX. Breathless: pse K. Finally an answer. Think of this: there we were with a S8 or 9 signal all over Europe, and a dozen QSOs in two hours on Saturday night. That's Europe. I was too tired to care too much now, the others had fallen asleep already. So after putting in the 20 metres coil set I retired also. When I woke up again, Rolf, the happy early riser had already knocked off a few log book pages of W6s and W7s. And then the spark had struck. As early as Sunday morning a prediction was wagered, 600 QSOs during our stay. Oh . . . it's too much. Final score 1967 contacts, 66 countries, pretty sure WAS, and always being called.

May I insert a brief run-down of the transmitter here? It was homebuilt back in 1949 when the first Germans got their licenses after the war. Consisting of four stages it is running 90 watts input on all bands, having given dependable service on two European field days and now in Luxembourg, never losing its characteristic T9c, at least so it sounded to us. If your signal reports were truthful, you can obviously get whatever you want with 100 watts and good antennas. The better ones for us were KH6, TI, FY7, YN, YS, VS4, VS6, HK, and JA.

We wanted to give as many hams as possible a new country for WAE points. So we shared the 21 operating hours per day between the four of us, thus always having a fresh operator at the controls. During day hours we hopped bands: 40, 20, 15; 10 was dead whenever we listened. After our daily sked with Hel at 2200 CET we QRZd on 80, but after one or two QSOs this band was satisfied. Needless to say that we were rather disappointed by European response. We would have felt let down if you Americans had not been around. So tnx a meg fer clg.

From 1700 to 0900 CET we were doing business. Starting on 15 until the band closed around 2300, then we QSYd down to 20. I would not want to do it forever, one week is enough, but it was grand. Being called nights long by dozens of stations at the same time, working all call areas of the USA at the same time, having Middle and South Americans in between. I wish every ham would live to hear it. At home I live in a valley, no beams allowed, no long wires possible, longest antenna 20 metres, and now this. What a difference!

Pretty soon QSOs were stripped down to bare essentials. Excuse us, OMs, if we did such a rush job, but the next station appreciated, we think, that he had not to wait so long. We were thus able to make up to two contacts per three minute period. Congratulations to you Ws on your fine operating and for taking hint to K against KN. It made our job much easier. You know, a BC-342 is not the sharpest of receivers.



The case of the dangling converter!

Tactics

A remark now from *our* point of view on how to work DX. We liked being called during a QSO, when our station was about to sign clear and the breaking in station was 1 kc off our stations frequency simply signing de WXXX once or twice. Nothing of our call, we know you mean us. This way we had a new call, could close with our first station, could call up and give a report to the next one. That is fast and ideal but not possible in every case. No point is seen calling 20 kc. off frequency, because if we should advise so the pile-up would be there. If you are stronger than the others so much the better for you, but nevertheless be as short as possible and then QSY. If you are weak you must depend on your luck that you chance on a free channel; sign your call as often as possible, three or four times. We often took a S6 station not because he was weak rather because he was in the clear, while a few cycles to his side S8 stations were undecipherable. A weak station should never try to call on zero beat, it should call some 5 kc. to either side. He must wait longer in most cases, but eventually the pile-up zero beat will be so that we start searching the fringes. Never call into a QSO that by the DX station is considered a rare catch. He won't rag-chew and he will be back the sooner for you if he gets all OK the first time. And finally, don't be embarrassed if the DX station does not give his name, QTH, and QSL address every time. Try to catch on to that while you listen, it will be appreciated.

Well, we worked whomever we could copy, we did not discriminate against anybody. If we

(*Continued on page 146*)

2000 QSOs Later

(Continued from page 46)

did not give you a break, we are sorry. You probably were there but either too weak or too much down under.

A nice episode occurred during Monsieur Jean Wolff's, LX1JW, inspection visit. After finding all in law and order he tried a CQ under his own call. Promptly an SM station replied and asked in the course of this QSO, "Say, Jean, I can hear some DL's/LUX since a few days, are those genuine?"

On our homeward trip a short visit to the home of LX1JW revealed a beautiful ham shack and a powerful station. We also saw the boom for a nearly-completed three-band beam for 20, 15, and 10 metres and back in the garden a pretty rhombic stretches its legs. Jean is a real old timer and has his license since 1920. He likes fone, so you fone be patient till Jean turns up again. We also met LX1DA at Jean's place.

You whom we skedded on 10 must excuse us. We intended to be on 10 on Saturday afternoon. But Saturday afternoon saw us driving homeward, all because a telephone call told us that the borders were closed on Sundays for travellers carrying goods for which security was deposited. Since we had to be back home on Sunday night we had to pack abruptly on Saturday noon (August 18) instead of Sunday morning. The first DXpedition of German hams after the war had come to an end.

So we left without any celebrations our romantic chateau, to which we had become attached during those nights in which you our fellow hams and the howling, ever present wind had kept us strange and fascinating company.

Losses in Feed Lines

(Continued from page 19)

significant radiation of the r.f. traveling inside the line. (R.f. can be induced on the outside of it, from the antenna, and then re-radiated.) An open-wire line has no significant radiation, provided the currents are balanced and the line spacing is less than about 1/100 wave length (4 inches at 30 Mc.). Even when the currents are not balanced, as happens when the feed line is not symmetrical with respect to the antenna or ground, the radiation from an open-wire line is not serious in most cases. If you have a long transmission-line run, or if you must operate your feed line with a high s.w.r. (because you are using the same antenna for several bands and the antenna impedance is not the same on all bands), it is pretty hard to beat open-wire line, as Fig. 2 shows.

Strays

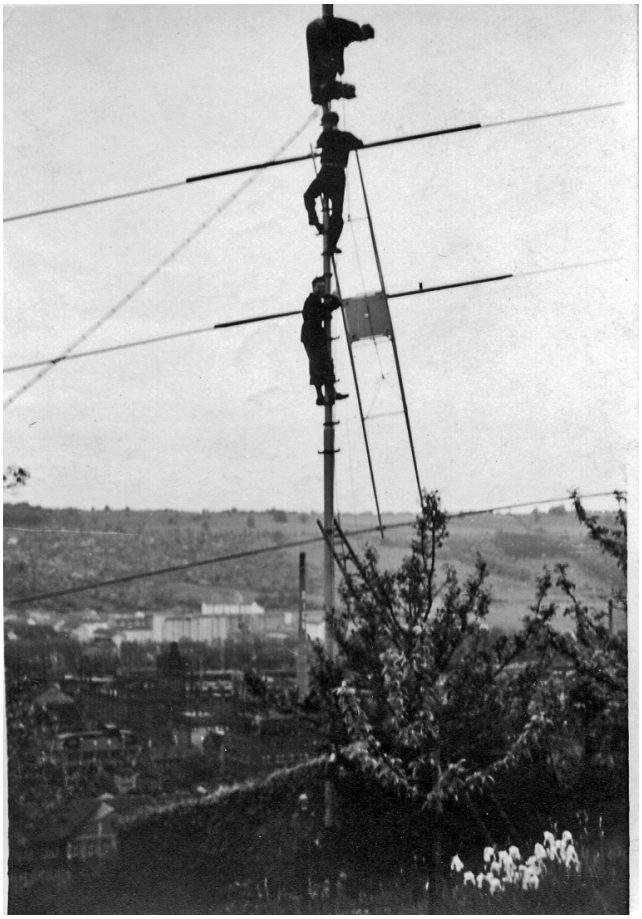
W3DMB belongs to the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club, whose club call is W3BMD.

H.F. Contests

In today's inflation of contests, two contests stand out in importance and number of participants: The CQ World Wide DX Contest (CQWWDXC), sponsored by the American magazine CQ in 1948, and the North American Contest, which exists since the 1930s and was created by the American Amateur Radio Association ARRL. Especially the CQWWDXC is considered by many radio operators as the Olympia in the HF contests.

A first common participation of friends from the club in Esslingen took place with the WWDXC in the year 1955 at the station of Helmut, DL9CI. QTH was his parents house on the Neckarhalde in Esslingen. Receiver a BC342, transmitter the legendary Hallicrafters BC610, antenna a 3-el beam for 20 M. For the other bands wire antennas were used.

Contest callsign DL9CI, the operators were DL9CI, DL1CR, DJ2MB.



In 1955, Eberhard Ludwig, DJ3JZ, and Ernst Abel, DJ3VM, joined the Esslingen Club. Both were familiar with radio and amateur radio from pre-war times. After building up a textile company, Gebr. Abel in Wernau, they again found time for amateur radio. On their factory ground, as well as on the grounds of the private house built by Eberhard in 1958, in a high-altitude area of Wernau, they found enough space to set up larger antenna systems.
It was obvious that with the enthusiasm of DJ3JZ and DJ3VM for amateur radio and with the pool of CW and phone experienced amateur radio operators in Esslingen, participation in international contests was inevitable.
In all years 1956 to 1965 the first place in Germany was reached in the CQWWDXC in the classes Multi OP Multi TX or Multi OP Single TX under the call DJ3JZ, division CW. In 1959 and 1961, we achieved the highest score worldwide in the Multi OP Multi TX class and won the K2GL "Buzz Reeves" Trophy..

Over the period the following call signs can be found on the certificates: DJ1BP, DJ3JZ, DJ3VW, DJ4LI, DJ7AF, DL1CR, DL3AO, DL6HW , DL6KC, DL6UR and DL9CI.
Guest operators from clubs outside Esslingen : DJ1BZ and DL7BA.
In the table "CQ WW Contest- All Time Winners by Country and Category".

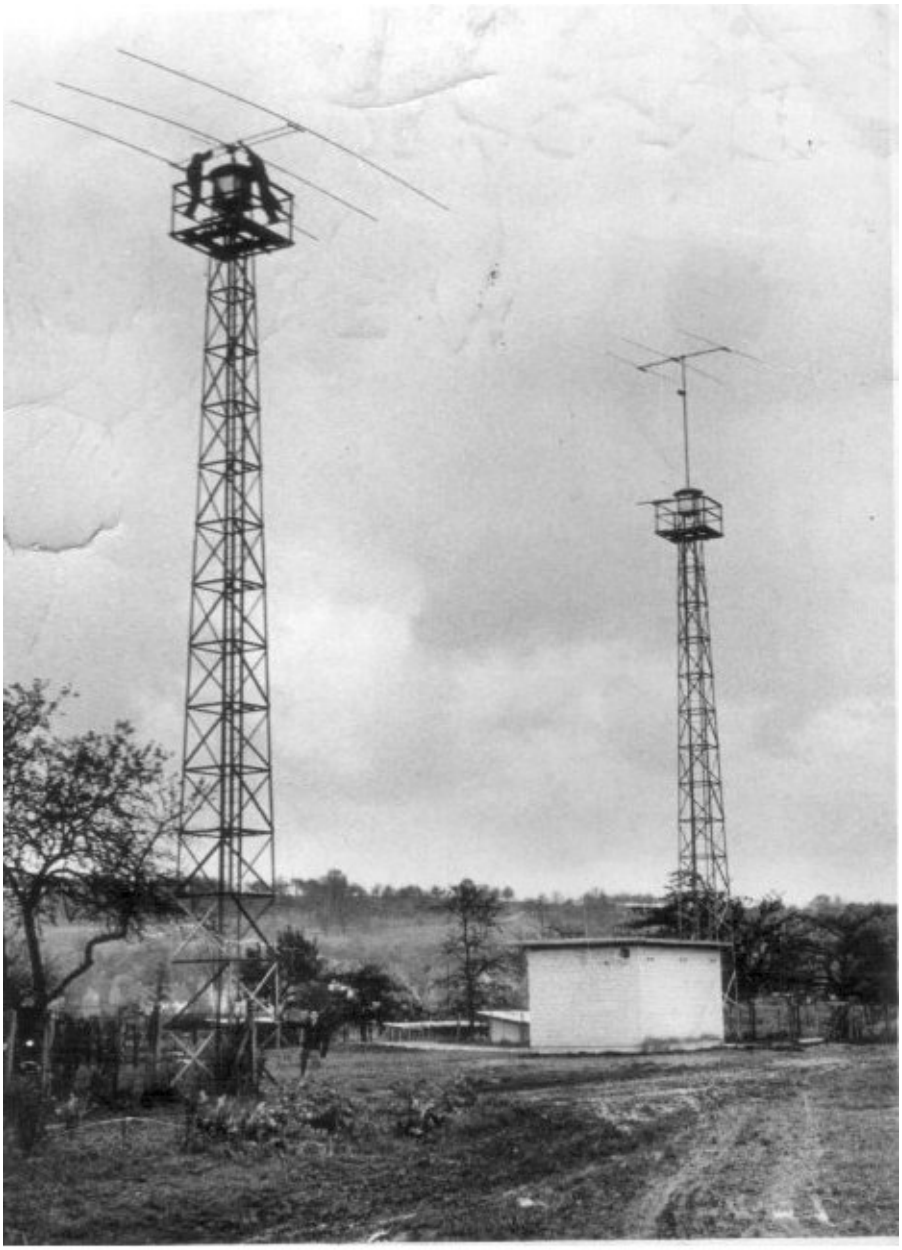
http://www.cqww.com/winners.htm

DJ3JZ is the only European station to achieve a WORLD 1st place twice in all categories. In the Multi Op- Multi TX category, no other European station has ever reached the summit.
These successes are not repeatable. Super stations on Madeira or on islands in the Caribbean can achieve scores which are far from being obtainable from Germany even with the best equipped stations and operators. Unless Esslingen becomes again a "Freie Reichsstadt" a "Free Imperial City" which it was until 1806 and then counts as a DXCC Entity !.
Under the callsign DJ3VM the participation in WWDXC took place in the telephony section. In the years 1958-1962, in each case with the usual calls from Esslingen, the first place in DL was reached continuously.

Contestfeier bei DJ3JZ in Wernau (1960)
von links:DL9CI (sitzend),DJ1BZ,DL1CR, DL3AO,DJ3JZ,DJ1BP,DJ4LI

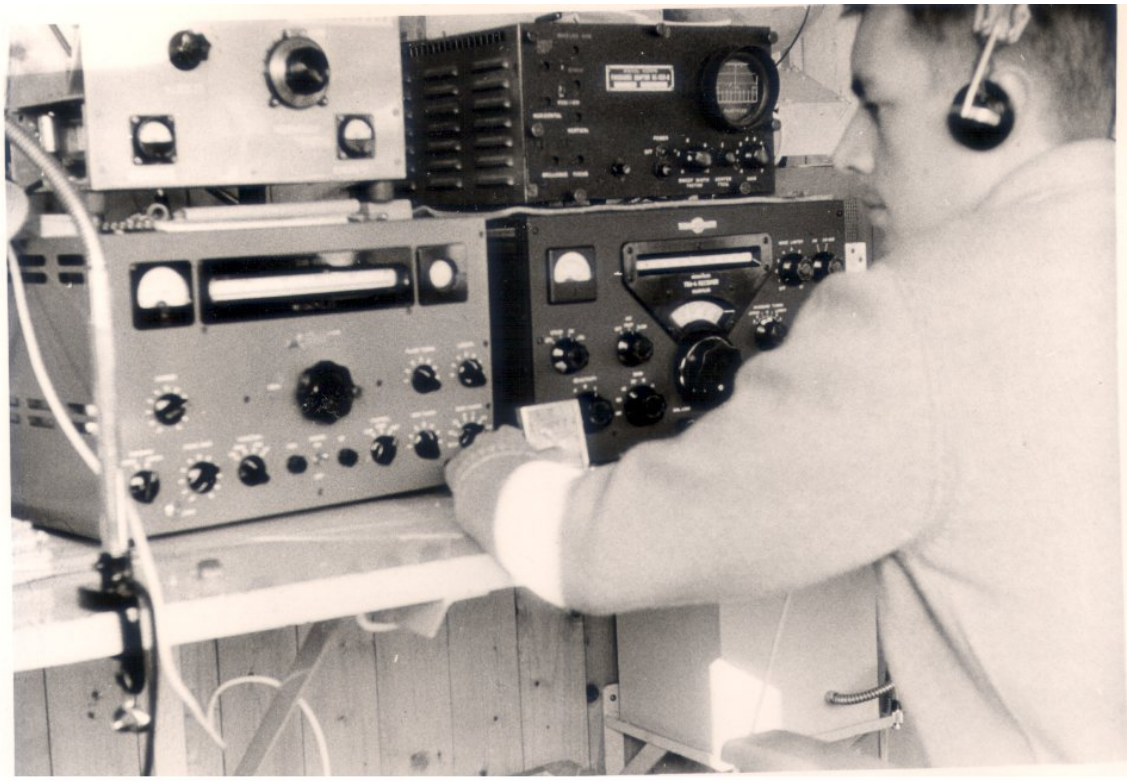
Treffen bei DJ3JZ in Wernau (um 1962)
von l.: DL1BI, DJ4LI, DJ1BP, DJ3JZ

DL1CR bei DJ3JZ in Wernau, um 1960
Links: Collins 75A4 als RX, Mitte Central Electronics 100V als TX
Rechts Eigenbau- Endstufe



Antennanlage von DJ3VM im Neckartal von Wernau. Die Gittermasten sind 20 m hoch. Links ein Yagi für 20 m, rechts für 10 m. Die Anlage ist noch im Entstehen (1958). Einer der OM auf dem Turm ist DJ3VW.

Vor der Stn von DJ3JZ und DJ3VM in Wernau (um 1959)
Von links: DL3AO, DL1CR, DJ1BP, DJ3JZ, DL9CI



DL9CI bei DJ3VM in Wernau, um 1960
Limks Sender Eldico 100F, darüber Eigenbau Endstufe
Rechts Empfänger Collins 75A4, darüber Panoramaadapter

Auf dem Mast von DJ3VM/DJ3JZ in Wernau (1958)
Von oben nach unten: DJ3JZ, DL9CI, DL1CR, DJ1BP,DL3AO

Auf dem Mast von DJ3VM/DJ3JZ in Wernau (1958)
Von l.: DJ1BP, DJ3JZ, DL3AO,DL9CI,DL1CR
Yagi fuer 14 MHz


The Editors of
1964
CQ
1964
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST
The Editors of
1965
CQ
1965
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST


The Editors of
1956
CQ
1956
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST
GERMANY
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1962
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1962
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST
GERMANY
4TH WORLD HIGH
The Editors of
1963
CQ
1963
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST

Part of the awards for first places in the CW part of the CQ World -Wide DX Contest for the years 1956 to 1965. Station call DJ3JZ, Operators from the club Esslingen
Participation in Single Transmitter Multi Operator and Multi Transmitter Multi Operator operation.

Von K2GL gestifteter Pokal für den Weltsieger im Multitransmitter-Multioperator Betrieb des World Wide CQ DX Contest. Unter dem call von DJ3JZ wurde dieser Pokal 1959 und 1961 gewonnen. (CW).
Operators: DJ1BP-DJ3JZ-DJ4LI-DL1CR-DL3AO-DL6HW-DL9CI. Guest operators DJ1BZ-DL7BA

The "Buzz Reeves Trophy" for the World Highest Score in the WWCQDXC

The activity of the Amateur Radio Club Esslingen in the first two decades after its foundation in 1946 is remarkable.

The story in short:
First German "multi-man DXpedition
Numerous first and top placements in European field days
Numerous first placements in CQ World Wide DX Contests and ARRL Contests , both in telegraphy and telephony.
Twice received the Buzz Reeves , K2GL, Tophy.

It is noticeable that radio activity in Esslingen during this period was entirely focused on the HF bands. VHF was of not much interest. A personal acquaintance with HAMs in European and overseas countries was a challenge in the years after WWII. Travelling was expensive and could not be afforded by most young people. DX QSOs gave a unique opportunity to fill this gap.

Two little Anectodes out of DL3AO's 75 years life in HamRadio

That's how times change.....

Sunday morning, I have forgotten the year, maybe 1965. I am hanging from my wooden mast at a height of 14 m, in the garden on the Schurwaldhöhe. My intention was to attach a new feed line to the DJ4VM Quad. .Suddenly a command call: "What are you doing up there?" I look down and see a field guard in his green uniform with a dog. Before I answer he shouts "Working in public during the Sunday church service is punishable!". I quickly held back an emerging, somewhat indignant response to the authority. We did have a building permit for our weekend house where I was. But I had built the antenna on our

property including the mast, visible from afar, in good faith. There were never any objections, but it is better not to wake up sleeping dogs....
So I climbed down and wished him a friendly good morning. However, this did not prevent him from demanding my particulars for the issuance of a "Gebuehrenpflichtige Verwarnung","Chargeable Warning". I replied that tennis was being played a few hundred meters away, gliders were flying overhead, and that my project was nothing more than a hobby (the word hobby, however, was not in use at the time, in German we spoke of "Liebhaberei"). I described the activities in world-wide amateur radio and reported from a previous connection with Australia (probably it was only a G!). So slowly he thawed. When I promised never to violate church rules again my offense was downgraded to a "Muendliche Ermahnung","verbal admonishment".
Still today this comparison annoys me. For 5 DM I would have received an official document:
Amateur radio is work and not a hobby!

Some time later. In this memory there is also no problem with the year!
My bride and I set January 17, 1967 as our wedding date. Through the help of my uncle Willy we found an apartment in a three-story house, located at the highest point in Berkheim. Ideal for amateur radio. The lease was valid from January 1st. However, the landlord still had to be asked for my intended antenna installation. This problem had to be approached very diplomatically and carefully. I always had some interesting QSL in my pocket, which I was going to take out in a favorable moment. I talked about amateur radio, which unites the whole world in love, about earthquake catastrophes, where often information from the place of the catastrophies reaches the outside world only via amateur radio and how amateur radio operators save human lives in this way.
(Admittedly, a bit overdone....)
Now came the question about an antenna on his house!

No problem, he said, after my short presentation to necessary heigth and size of the antenna. ("How can one refuse so philantropically adjusted radio operators something" ?!). And his positive attitude remained to my antennas and to my amateur radio operation , until we moved away after some years into our own house.

But another problem arose following that well ending talk !

As we were leaving, he called me back:

"You are now furnishing the apartment with your future wife" ?

"Yes!"

"Can it be that sometimes in the evening it gets a little late"?

"Yes"!

"Can it be that you might spend the night in the apartment sometimes"?

"Hm Hm, don't know about that...."

"If so, please leave the house separately the next morning"!

Note for the late-born: Until 1967, there was §180 in German criminal law, Kuppelei. It was forbidden for hoteliers and private individuals to rent a room or an apartment to unmarried couples under penalty. For example, when signing a rental contract for a husband and wife, the marriage certificate had to be presented. And this we could do only after January 17!

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