

when it sailed for the United Kingdom in December, 1939, and a series of historic recordings were sent back to Canada by short-wave after their arrival. Later, this Program Unit was expanded and became the CBC Overseas Unit. It was equipped with armoured, mobile recording vans so that correspondents and engineers could follow the Canadian troops wherever they went, and report their progress to Canadians at home. During the course of the War these vans saw service in England, Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, the Low Countries and Germany, and CBC correspondents were able to provide a service of war reports unequalled by any other network.

In the field of community life, the development of listening groups as a corollary to educational broadcasts was the subject of an experimental project fostered by the CBC and the Canadian Association for Adult Education in 1940. Over 550 listening groups were formed across Canada to follow a series entitled "Enquiry into Co-operation", with the provision of study material and reading lists. This series set the pattern for two later discussion series, "Of Things to Come", in which 20,000 people were members of listening groups, and the present annual series, "Citizens' Forum"

A similar discussion series designed especially for the rural audience was begun in 1940 under the title "National Farm Radio Forum" This series—a joint project of the CBC, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Association for Adult Education—gives farmers in all parts of Canada an opportunity to exchange views and opinions on common problems.

The 1940-41 season brought other important developments in Canada's national radio system. The CBC National News Service was established, with a central newsroom at Toronto and regional newsrooms at Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, to provide a complete service of news bulletins written especially for radio. School broadcasts, prepared in co-operation with Provincial Departments of Education, were begun in the Maritimes, British Columbia and Quebec. National School Broadcasts, prepared and presented by the CBC itself, began the following year. These broadcasts, developed with the advice of the National Advisory Council on School Broadcasting, are designed to strengthen the sense of Canadian citizenship in the younger generation.

Perhaps the most interesting war work for the members of the CBC engineering division who were not overseas with the troops was the assistance given to the Free French Forces in establishing a powerful short-wave transmitter at Brazzaville, in French equatorial Africa. Members of the CBC engineering division spent considerable time abroad on initial plans for the transmitter, and the engineering offices at Montreal were able to render vital assistance in preparing engineering layouts, and mechanical and electrical blueprints.

Their work on the short-wave transmitter for the Free French Forces stood the engineers in good stead when they were called on to design and build a powerful short-wave station for the Canadian Government. The preparations for a Canadian short-wave service had begun as early as 1938, and an Order in Council authorizing the establishment of the CBC International Service was passed in 1942. CBC engineers chose Sackville, N.B., as the site, and designed a directional, high-gain antenna system for short-wave broadcasting. By means of remotely controlled switches, the two 50,000-watt transmitters in the short-wave plant can be attached to any one of three antenna systems, and each of these can be reversed. In effect, this means that Canadian short-wave programs can be aimed in any one of six