

4

E. N. I. G. M. A.

European Numbers Information Gathering And Monitoring Association



0	ZERO	ZERO	NULA	NULL
1	JEZIUTA	UNO	EDNA	EINS
2	DVONTA	DOI	DVOYTZE	SVO
3	TRUNTA	TREI	TŘI	DREI
4	CZDIRI	PATRU	CHETYRI	VIER
5	PEYONTA	CINCI	PEDARTZE	FUNF
6	ŠESH	ŞASE	ŠEST	SECHS
7	SEDM	ŞAPTE	SEDITZER	SEDEN
8	OSEM	OPT	ASEH	ACHT
9	PRUNKA	NOUĂ	DEVET	NEUN

3 4 5 6 | 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 MHZ

WELCOME TO ISSUE 4 OF ENIGMA NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to all our readers in Britain Europe and World-Wide. It's a New Year and a new name - ENIGMA - becomes the European Numbers Information Gathering & Monitoring Association, we hope this better reflects the aims of our members.

This issue is packed with information, so much so that our plans for a feature on Morse Numbers stations is on hold, but the good news is it will appear in it's own special insert with the next issue.

ENIGMA will be published in 1994 as follows.

January 1994 Second Week of January.
May 1994 Second Week of May (Contributions by April 2nd please).
September 1994 Second Week of September
January 1995 Second Week of January 1995

Enclosed with this issue is a subscription form, it will cover the issues upto and including January's 1995, and include the special supplement on Morse Numbers Stations which will be sent with the next issue.

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In the next issue of ENIGMA .....

Listen Monday to Friday to something very interesting..... during day-time European hours DEA47 a morse numbers station transmits a call sign and 5 figure groups on 12283 and 13582. We will be reporting the facts about DEA47 and it's exact location.

Plus things that go buzz, tune in to 4625 khz almost anytime- what is it ? we have direction finding information on that noise.

Keep an ear on 8300 kHz for the Chinese language station "New Star Radio" it can be heard in the European afternoon at around 14.00 and between 22.00 and 03.00 on 8300//12750 kHz, is this station really a Numbers Station operating under cover....we report.

Plus all the regular features .....Station News - Simon Mason Writes....your letters.....only from ENIGMA...if you like the secret side of short wave .....it's in ENIGMA NEWSLETTER.

Cheers 73's

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME, SEND BEFORE APRIL 2nd -195, Roberttown Lane Roberttown Liversedge West Yorkshire WF15 7LE ENGLAND  
or on. . . . . USENET to Mike <mikec@praxis.co.uk>. . . . .

STATION NEWS AND LATEST LISTENING COMPILED FROM ENIGMA  
MONITOR REPORTS IN BRITAIN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STATIONS

LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER

This station is still very active but early morning transmissions do seem to have ceased. It can be heard broadcasting to the following schedule each day on a wide range of frequencies. The station was transmitting on Christmas day !. Most broadcasts continue to suffer from the high power jammers, particularly during the day time and mid-evenings.

11.00 to 14.00 on 16084 14487 and 15682 (co-channel WOCR)  
15.00 to 17.00 on 11545 13375 and 12604  
18.00 to 22.00 on either of the following  
                  9251 7337 and 12604  
                  6485 6959 and 10426

The frequency of 6485 was the station's first home in June 1989-reports Simon Mason.

THREE FIGURE ENGLISH

This new station can be heard Monday to Friday on any of the following frequencies 9270 9282 9290 kHz signing on at 08.20 hrs UTC. The format consist of a three figure identification - mainly 274, if a message is to be sent the YL announces 274 over and over for 5 minutes, if no message is to be sent then the call 274/00000 is repeated. I would very much welcome comments on the possible nationality of the announcer !!!!

08.20 to 08.40 on 9270 9282 or 9290 (it can be any of these)  
Daily between Monday and Friday. Occasionally Sundays also.

READY READY

Only heard at three times during the week this station is most interesting, the very well spoken English YL announcer gives a 5 figure number for 3 minutes then announces READY READY followed by the group count - usually between 20 and 30 five figure blocks follow. The station announcer reads the numbers very fast and the station leaves the air just a few seconds after the transmission end. It is worth noting that the station does not always appear !. We would welcome any logs of this station.

Monday 20.00 on 4740  
Monday 21.30 on 4740 (not a repeat)  
Wednesday 23.00 on 5235

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STATIONS CONTINUED

COUNTING STATION

You will find a full feature on this station compiled by Simon Mason, the Counting Station is heard World-wide in English Spanish and occasionally German.

ALPHA PHONETIC STATIONS

Featured in issue 3 these stations are alleged to be located in Israel - with all the activity in the Middle East - keep an ear open for these. Remember that some start on the hour 00 or at 15 30 and 45 minutes past the hour. Also the following is useful when monitoring;

Example Yankee Hotel Foxtrot (YHF) over and over = Message  
" " YHF 1 YHF 1 YHF 1 = Test  
" " YHF 2 YHF 2 YHF 2 = No Message  
" " YHF 3 YHF 3 YHF 3 = Unknown !

Active frequencies are often heard between 16.00 and 02.00 most days. Messages consist of "Group Count" followed by Phonetic Alphabet in English.

|     |      |     |       |     |       |     |      |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|
| PCD | 3150 | KPA | 3270  | ART | 3420  | OEM | 5339 |
| VLB | 3640 | YHF | 3842  | YHF | 4560  | OEM | 6911 |
| VLB | 4665 | KPA | 4780  | MIW | 5230  | YHF | 791B |
| FTJ | 4465 | JSR | 5091  | CIO | 5629  | SYN | 2952 |
| ART | 5437 | ZWL | 5715  | PCD | 6502  | CIO | 6745 |
| JSR | 7540 | SYN | 7605  | MIW | 8640  | ULX | 4880 |
| EZI | 9131 | MIW | 10820 | KPA | 10970 | ULX | 7760 |

All heard during the 16.00 to 02.00 time slot

Try also the following,

|       |     |              |
|-------|-----|--------------|
| 06.45 | VLB | 10352        |
| 08.15 | KPA | 13921        |
| 11.30 | EZI | 15980//19715 |
| 12.55 | EZI | 13534 17410  |

Special thanks to Zacharias in Thessaloniki, Ken in Cheltenham and Leo in Sunderland & Alan in Solihull for all the logs of this station.

This station needs a lot of monitoring so please keep sending in information about it.

## GERMAN LANGUAGE STATIONS

### STATION N N N

This German language station is easy to copy for beginners, broadcast commence on the hour with the morse code character N N N repeated for 5 minutes followed by a YL announcer who speaks slowly, the group counts are either 10 15 20 25 or 30 which suggests the messages are padded out to make it harder for would-be code breakers, after the message is sent the N N N's are repeated 10 times and the message sent again. This station is quite active and is easily heard.

Wednesday 21.00 on 5177  
Thursday 20.00 on 4024  
Friday 21.00 on 4644 etc.

Readers may be interested to know that this is the only Numbers Station known to transmit in the French language, although all present transmissions are in German. It is linked with a much larger Morse numbers operation.

### THE THREE NOTE ODDITY

Only heard on Sundays this station is featured in this issue, the January 1994 frequency is as follows. The feature written by an ENIGMA reader explains how the station can be found.

January 1994 frequency is 4125 at 22.15 UTC SUNDAY ONLY

### STATION NUI NOICHEN

It is hard to describe this station which sends a powerful signal, it is in the middle of a change to it's operations at present so this information may be variable.

During August September October & November it was only heard in the morning.

Tuesday 05.00 on 9693, repeated at 06.00 on 10531 call 130  
Tue & Thu 06.30 on 7379, repeated at 06.50 on 8177 call 278

At present it is moving about in the evenings with new call's

Monday 21.50 on 5750 repeated at 22.50 on 5060 call 564  
Tuesday 19.20 on 6775 repeated at 20.20 on 5775 call 774/  
or 4475 call 569

The station sends the 3 figure identification in the following format 278/1 if a message is to follow or 278/0 if no message, if no message is sent there is no repeat. Ends "000 000 Ende".

GERMAN LANGUAGE STATIONS CONTINUED

SWEDISH RHAPSODY

This station with its music box interval signal is much more complex than was first thought, indeed it operates a monthly schedule and also has a morse code partner.

Try this out and you will see it is a large operation, please note that because of its 4 and 5 week cycle it does not always appear. Also note that it does not transmit on Friday's at all (it did transmit on the Saturday of Christmas day).

| DAY  | TIME    | FREQUENCY      | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4    | 5             |
|------|---------|----------------|----|----|----|------|---------------|
| SAT  | 06.00   | 6507           |    | #E |    | #N   |               |
|      | 08.00   | 8188           |    | #E |    | #N   |               |
|      | 10.00   | 9457           |    | #E |    | #N   |               |
|      | 19.00   | 4779/5340/6507 | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #R            |
|      | 20.00   | 4779/5340/6507 | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #R            |
|      | 21.00   | 4779/5340/6507 | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #R            |
| SUN  | 05.00   | 6507           | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #R            |
|      | 06.00   | 6507           | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #R            |
|      | 08.00   | 8188           | #A | #E | #I | #N   | #             |
|      | 10.00   | 9457           | #A | #E | #I | #N   |               |
|      | 11.00   | 7584           | #B |    | #J |      |               |
|      | 13.00   | 8188           | #B |    | #J |      |               |
|      | 14.00   | 6901           | #B |    | #J |      |               |
|      | 17.00   | 5340           |    |    | #K |      |               |
|      | 21.00   | 5340           |    | #F |    |      |               |
|      | 22.00   | 3825           | #C |    |    |      |               |
| MON  | 22.00   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 22.30   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 23.00   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 23.30   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
| TUE  | 06.00** | 4195           |    | #G |    |      |               |
|      | 07.00** | 4195           |    | #G |    |      |               |
|      | 19.00   | 6507           | #A |    | #I |      |               |
|      | 20.00   | 5748           | #B |    | #J |      |               |
|      | 21.00   | 4779           | #A |    | #I |      |               |
|      | 22.00   | 4832           | #B |    | #J |      |               |
| WED  | 13.00   | 7315           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 16.00   | 5748           |    |    |    | #O   |               |
|      | 20.00   | 5340           |    |    |    | #O   |               |
|      | 22.00   | 5748/5340      | #D |    | #L |      | #(5340 used)O |
|      | 22.30   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 23.00   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 23.30   | 5748           | #D |    | #L |      |               |
|      | 00.00** | 5340           |    |    |    |      | #P            |
|      | 00.00   | 6507           |    |    |    | #L   | #Q            |
|      | 17.00   | 5748           |    |    |    | #L   |               |
| THUR | 19.00** | 5340           |    |    |    | #M   |               |
|      | 20.00** | 5340           |    | #H |    | #MXX |               |
|      | 21.00   | 5340           |    | #H |    |      |               |
|      | 22.00   | 5340           |    | #H |    |      |               |

letters indicate repeats

SWEDISH RHAPSODY CONTINUED.

\*\* Next to frequency denotes a morse transmission, on these a letter U is sent. In all transmissions from this station in voice or morse no messages are ever repeated the following week or month.

GERMAN TWO-LETTER STATIONS

These stations are very active and are in the main heard between 16.00 and 23.00 UTC on a wide range of frequencies, they send two letters PAPA ZULA, ECHO GOLF, OSCAR ALPHA, NOVEMBER UNIFORM etc and can best be received at the top or bottom of the hour. Try any of the following,

16.00 to 23.00 at 00 or 30 minutes, you may find upto three stations at once. Pay particular attention to MIKE DELTA or DELTA MIKE which are in the English language.

Active frequencies. 3228 3262 4543 4594 4821 4888 5015 5284 2707  
5732 5770 6853 7404 7532 7740 7753 7858 8063 8173 9040 9325  
9450 also during the daytime in Europe 10177 10460 10500  
10740 11108 11545 12092 12314 13572 13890 14622 14945 15610  
16055 16220 16414 17430 18195 18575 19295 19755 20350.  
Thanks to Simon Mason for this information.

Heard outside the 16.00 to 23.00 hrs slot are the following;

|      |       |                   |    |
|------|-------|-------------------|----|
| Sun  | 05.00 | 4543              | PZ |
| Sun  | 06.00 | 4543              | PZ |
| Sun  | 08.30 | 10460 or<br>13775 | DA |
| Sun  | 13.00 | 16414             | NZ |
| Sun  | 14.30 | 16414             | NZ |
| Mon  | 05.30 | 9450              | AL |
| Mon  | 06.00 | 4543              | PZ |
| Tue  | 03.30 | 10177             | WL |
| Tue  | 08.00 | 13375             | EG |
| Thur | 06.00 | 9450              | KW |
| Thur | 06.00 | 5182              | PZ |
| Fri  | 08.00 | 15610or<br>13890  | EG |

You may recall in issue 3 we reported that one possible site for these stations was at Bonames in Western Germany, but that it did not appear on any maps. I am most grateful to Geoff in Bridgend who sent me a very detailed map showing Bonames to be just a few miles North East of Frankfurt. This was the reported location of DFC37 and DFC21 which broadcast daily for many years on 3370 and 4010, reported to be for to agents in Eastern Germany.

## EAST EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STATIONS

O L X

Featured last issue O L X is "very" active and is at present broadcasting to the following schedule. Note that some transmissions are voice and others in CW (Morse).

|                             |      |      |       |
|-----------------------------|------|------|-------|
| 00.00 to 05.00 every day on | 6758 | 5301 | 3280  |
| 06.00 to 11.00 every day on | 8141 | 6282 | 4601  |
| 12.00 to 17.00 every day on | 6758 | 5301 | 11002 |
| 18.00 to 22.00 every day on | 6758 | 5301 | 3280  |

Sign on is in Morse Code for 5 minutes before the hour with the call VVV de DLX.

Why should a so called Czech station be so active? The station has 55 different identification calls. Perhaps the following may be of interest to our readers.

" Mr Oldrich Czerny - Director of Overseas Intelligence Service of the Czech Republic - speaking on the BBC Television programme Panorama - stated that the Czechs had received considerable help from British Intelligence (MI6) for the last four years and that the British had re-trained and re-organised the Czech Secret Service since the split of the Country into two parts".....

BULGARIAN BETTY

This station was very active several years ago and until 31-1-93 was heard daily on the following frequency.

Daily 13.55 to 14.05 on 6975 kHz. Try 4487 now.

I would appreciate any help from readers in Eastern Europe and CIS to help with stations in these pages.

STATION YT YT YT

Last heard on 20th March 1990 at 19.10 UTC this station has suddenly re-appeared. The station sends the letters Y-T (- .-- -) very slowly. After this a "live voice" gives a 3 figure identification followed by a group count and the 5 figure blocks. The station then resumes sending YT YT YT and the cycle continues at 5 minute intervals for about 45 minutes.

Try daily (be persistent) on 4424 at 19.00 UTC, so far heard twice on Monday s and Thursdays but could be any day.

MYSTERY STATION

Every one listen to this...heard daily in SSB at 20.00 on 5530 - it is a very weak Phonetic station; it has started sending messages since the last issue...help needed to find an area where the signal is readable.



EAST EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STATIONS - CONTINUED.

THE "STRICH"

It is difficult to know what to say about this station. It never or extremely rarely sends any messages but does transmit in an unknown East European or Russian language and also in English and German. The format is as follows.

Examples;

|         |                         |                             |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| English | "Two Eight Eight        | Oblique Zero Zero" (288/00) |
| German  | "Fier Neun Sechs        | Strich Zero Zero" (496/00)  |
| Slavic  | "Jezinka Trojka Jezinka | Pres a Zero Zero" (313/00)  |

Frequencies heard in the last 3 months are 3250 4015 4090  
5052 5150 5220 5365 5520 5550 5670 5890 6750 6810 6805 6950  
7444 7540 7580 7710 7830 7841 8033 8100 9030 9272

New frequencies regularly appear (underlined are most recent).

The station has been heard at the following times on the hour and half hour between 05.00 and 09.00 and on the hour between 13.00 and 23.00. We have attempted to draw up schedules but the transmissions are prone to sudden change, generally identifiers stick to the same times and frequencies.

A CW (Morse) version of "The Strich" also appears on the frequencies listed.

All the transmissions vary in strength even on closely spaced frequencies which perhaps indicates different transmitter sites are in use. All transmissions last just 5 minutes and so finding them is very difficult, you have to be in the right place at the right time.

No messages have been heard for several years but the broadcasts continue. The transmissions end as follows

English Out

German Ende

Slavic Possibly "Konets"

So what can we say about a station that does not send messages but pops up for 5 minutes and sends a call sign - indicates that no message is to follow and leaves the air! Well, first of all it is no small organisation and has quite a number of id's. One interesting theory is that the people receiving the messages may be "sleeping agents" people in place but perhaps not active - waiting for "THE STRICH" to switch them on.....

The idea of an organisation which does not send its agents a message for over 2 years is to say the least rather disconcerting.....

EAST EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STATIONS - CONTINUED.

THE RUSSIAN MAN

This station is heard on a wide range of frequencies particularly in the evenings in Europe. It does not have a regular schedule or indeed channels, so finding it is a bit hit or miss. The one good point is that the signal is very, very strong.

It appears in 4 formats which may be from different organisations.

- A. English Male - Very hollow sounding clear voice
- B. Russian Male - Very hollow sounding - Military Voice
- C. Russian Male - "More Life-like sounding"
- D. Gravel Voice - A male announcer with a very deep husky voice. (Not part of other stations)

I hope to feature this station in later issues of ENIGMA.

Try in the evenings around the following channels for the Russian Man, around 6.7 5.8 5.2 or 4.5 mHz.

-----  
WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your logs are important in helping to build up traffic analysis of Number Stations, they may not appear as individual logs but will be used in schedules, frequency lists and operating characteristics. This will help other readers find more stations on different channels and at new times ....so PLEASE keep sending them in.

Languages.....quite a few stations transmit in unidentified languages- we need your help to de-code those odd words and numbers correctly.

Direction finding... we are particularly interested in obtaining the general location of stations, if you can help in any way please let us know.

MAY I THANK EVERYONE- TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS WE RECEIVED, MAY WE WISH YOU GOOD LISTENING AND BEST 73'S.

### LETTERS TO ENIGMA

First of all I must start by thanking EVERY-ONE who wrote to ENIGMA, we have received several hundred letters and enquiries and I must apologise if I have not written to you personally. ENIGMA is fast becoming a victim of its own success - so much so that I have to limit the size of the letters page in order to fit every thing else in.

First off...Ken in Cheltenham who asks quite a few questions, What are the languages on the front cover? - They are - left to right Special Russian for Radio, Slavic, Rumanian, and German. Ken asks if we could provide information on the different languages-we are working on a list of all European Numbers from 0-9 for a future issue. Ken also asks about the times and days of the week with regard to Number Stations, this is very important and we are trying to include this information where ever possible.

Just to confirm all times in ENIGMA are UTC/GMT and the abbreviations are EE English GG German RR Russian CZK Czech SPA Spanish etc.

Zacharias writes from Athens and sent us a good selection of logs including Number Stations and also Single Letter High Frequency Beacons, we are very interested in these so if any readers come across them please write and tell ENIGMA.

Quick Hello's go to Chris in Derby; Chris is Publicity Officer for the International Short Wave League - he is an avid Short Wave Listener for over 20 Years.

Hello also to Harold Kuhl of Media Forum Magazine in Germany, Harold's already compiled an article about ENIGMA for "Funk" a leading German magazine for Short Wave Listeners.

Greetings to Marcel in Vern Sur Seiche France; we are most interested in the information concerning direction finding which you sent to us, this will be appearing during the course of this year, along with your feature on the East German Station which we received.

We have had a number of letters from listeners who have studied Number Stations for years - Harold wrote from Southampton "One of the best books I have ever read on the subject of is by Harry Helms, an American author who seems to have no doubt that the numbers are intended for 'agents' working for the Country concerned" .

John from Gwynedd writes....I'm a dedicated Short Wave Listener ....both Number Stations and Single Letter High Frequency Beacons are of interest to me, ENIGMA is very welcome, John sends in some logs including a "C" Beacon on 7040 kHz.

Thanks to Fred in Bognor Regis, Fred wrote in to "Communication" the British DX Club Magazine having heard some of the Mossad stations. ENIGMA was pleased to reply to help Fred with these mystery stations.

Chris wrote from Folkstone and was particularly interested in the Czech "Drums & Trumpet" station which used to transmit on 6675 kHz, it did not appear often and has not been heard for some time. Chris asks if anyone knows the name of the piece of music which the station used - it was like a military march. This station was, according to direction finding information received by ENIGMA - transmitting from VRAISLAWICE in Czechoslovakia.

Dave from Ludlow sent in some comments on the Numbers Station scene, he tells us that all the Number Stations are non-authorized; not one country in the world puts in for frequency clearance to use same! Dave also says that with the demise of the Eastern Bloc many people thought that there would be a lessening in Numbers activity; this was not the case - the traffic just changed.

Greeting now to Leo in Sunderland. Leo is going to join ENIGMA as a dedicated monitor of Number stations which transmit in CW/MORSE mode. This is a large area to cover and this issue sees the first part of our venture into the area of Number Stations in this mode.

Kevin writes from Highgate London and asks about the link between jamming and Number Stations. Well certainly some of the Number Stations are jammed. The Counting Station and the Lincolnshire Poacher both suffer this. The Lincolnshire Poacher uses several frequencies in the broadcast band which are jammed 7337 kHz in the mid-evenings is one, the other is 15682 kHz which causes the jamming to also effect World Wide Christian Radio on 15680 kHz during the European afternoons.

Last but not least, Ken in Doncaster is a keen listener. Ken mentions a noise on 4625 kHz which is on the air most of the day and night; it sounds like a "foghorn or buzzer" and sounds every 2 seconds. I have put out a general appeal for information about this.... and you will find the results of this later in this issue. Although it is not proven to be associated with Numbers it is very odd.

That is all the letters I can squeeze in for this issue, but before I close may I thank everyone for all the information they have sent in, it will be used in future ENIGMA's and we are fast building up a vast collection of future news and features.

Thanks go to the following for supporting ENIGMA, Tony Rogers at BDXC, Andy Cadier & Graham Tanner at Short wave Magazine, readers of "Funk" magazine, members of the I.S.W.L. and the Benelux DX Club. Our feature writers Simon Mason, Mike Chace, Mike in Bradford and YOU for your interest and support. Thanks.

SIMON MASON WRITES...THE COUNTING STATIONS

These alleged C.I.A. stations are still very active all over the Short Wave bands. They can be heard in three languages English German and Spanish, although the latter is best heard in North America.

The frequency spread is very large - the lowest noted is 3190 kHz and the highest 27095 kHz. This particular station always uses two frequencies per broadcast - sent in parallel, usually within two or three Mhz of each other, although the greatest difference I've noted is about 6 Mhz (19095 // 24978). All Counting station broadcasts start on the hour other than "control transmissions" which start at 30 minutes past the hour.

When a message is sent the YL will count from 1-0 and then repeat the 3 figure identifier threetimes e.g. 1234567890 515 515 515, at ten minutes past the hour 10 electronic dashes are sent and are followed by the group count said as "Count 225" or "Gruppe 210". An interesting exception to this is when the 3 figure identifier is 383, on these occasions the transmission ends just before the 10 electronic dashes would be sent. On all other transmissions the YL then sends either 4 figure or more commonly 5 figure groups. The latter are usually referred to as 3/2 figure groups as there is a distinct pause between the 3rd and 4th digit in the 5 figure group, e.g. 545/34 723/56 - the reason for this is not known but it could be that it is easier to copy down in this format.

It might be a coincidence but I've noticed that for the English station the group count is high in the European afternoons (max 225 for 5 figure and 210 for 4 figure groups) and lower in the European evenings, typically 125 groups. In addition the German language Counting Station seems to have become less common since 1990 but the English stations seem to be as widespread as years ago.

Since 1989 English Counting Stations have been jammed by suspected Russian or Iraqi warble jammers, although the level of jamming is slightly less than a couple of years ago. This may be through a lack of transmitter sites or that the jammers have redirected their signal towards more pressing needs such as clandestine stations.

One noticeable quality of these stations is the unique sound of the empty carrier wave. Just take a listen one day at 13.00 to 13.30 UTC on 16434 kHz before the 13.30 to 13.40 UTC control transmission. The carrier sounds very "hollow and tubey" with echo and something that sounds like an automatic gain control.

If when tuning around on Short Wave you hear a carrier like this - put it in your receiver's memory for you are sure to find that a Counting Station will be there within the hour.

Schedules are very difficult to sort out, I have included a list of some of the broadcast I've noted over the last 3 years and some patterns can be made out although most of them are of the "3rd Sunday of the Month " type !!! One exception was during October 1990 when I kept a watch on 6840 // 5046 kHz at 23.00 UTC for one month.

|             |                 |        |     |     |   |       |     |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|---|-------|-----|
| Between the | 5th and 17th    | it was | 1-0 | 245 | : | Count | 140 |
|             | 17th and 31st   | it was | 1-0 | 881 | : | Count | 75  |
|             | and in November |        | 1-0 | 144 | : | Count | 101 |

Transmitter sites are as with most number stations unknown, but United States sources favour the Warrenton site, part of the US Army Vint Hill Farm station in Virginia as a site for the English transmissions. The German sites are most likely to be United States bases in Germany, but this is only speculation.

The mode used for all Counting Station transmissions is called R.C.S. or Reduced Carrier Sideband. This is a sort of AM/SSB hybrid, so the transmission can be understood in A.M. mode but can be better heard with a B.F.O. in use. Contrast this with the "Lincolnshire Poacher" station which use Upper Side Band only and therefore needs a B.F.O. to resolve.

Earlier the "Control Messages" were mentioned, these only operate at 30 minutes past the hour, un-like the full transmissions that start at the top of the hour. "Control Messages" are sent on 2 frequencies in parallel - no pre-amble is given but at the half hour the 10 electronic tones are sent - the YL then announces between 2 and 4 - four figure blocks e.g. 3523 4591 6720 which are simply repeated over and over for 10 minutes after which the transmission ends. Whilst it is of course unknown what these messages are ENIGMA suspects that they may give some coded information perhaps on the times frequencies or dates of when the full messages can be received ?. Whatever they are the jamming transmitters attack them with vigour in the same manner that some full messages are also blocked.

The Counting Stations then are one of the "ever-present" of the numbers scene and can be heard every day, usually with good reception.

Finding the Counting Stations can be difficult so here is a list of some recent loggings .....good listening.....

| TIME | FREQUENCIES | DAY     | LANGUAGE | ADDRESS | COUNT | FORMAT |
|------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|-------|--------|
| 1800 | 19105/17522 | THUR    | ENGLISH  | 534     | 193   | 5F     |
| 1600 | 21811/24978 | WED     | ENGLISH  | 279     | 225   | 5F     |
| 1600 | 16395/18356 | THUR    | ENGLISH  | 671     | 225   | 4F     |
| 2000 | 8120 /10135 | SAT     | GERMAN   | 399     | 210   | 4F     |
| 2000 | 7375 /9465  | SAT     | GERMAN   | 106     | 154   | 5F     |
| 1900 | 4011 /5137  | SAT/TUE | ENGLISH  | 172     | 192   | 5F     |
| 1900 | 8120 /10135 | SAT/WED | GERMAN   | 951     | 83    | 4F     |
| 1400 | 9041 /13518 | TUE     | ENGLISH  | 369     | 210   | 5F     |
| 1500 | 14703/11123 | SUN     | ENGLISH  | 099     | 210   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 5413 /7588  | WED     | ENGLISH  | 615     | 078   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 7655 /9090  | SUN     | ENGLISH  | 155     | 070   | 5F     |
| 2200 | 5413 /6784  | FRI     | ENGLISH  | 309     | 118   | 5F     |
| 2000 | 4990 /5440  | SAT/MON | GERMAN   | 992     | 191   | 5F     |
| 2000 | 14420/17370 | SAT     | ENGLISH  | 188     | 219   | 5F     |
| 1800 | 16174/19105 | TUE     | ENGLISH  | 146     | 182   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 11034/13487 | FRI     | ENGLISH  | 834     | 210   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 12242/14752 | THU/FRI | ENGLISH  | 679     | 225   | 5F     |
| 1200 | 13555/16086 | SUN     | ENGLISH  | 570     | 225   | 5F     |
| 1300 | 10529/16198 | SAT     | ENGLISH  | 488     | 225   | 5F     |
| 1800 | 6849 /9147  | TUE     | ENGLISH  | 362     | 216   | 5F     |
| 2000 | 4455 /6920  | SAT     | GERMAN   | 140     | 213   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 5413 /6784  | MON     | ENGLISH  | 009     | 198   | 5F     |
| 2000 | 8120 /10135 | SAT     | GERMAN   | 791     | 224   | 4F     |
| 1200 | 13555/16086 | SUN     | ENGLISH  | 478     | 225   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 9254 /10374 | SUN     | GERMAN   | 411     | 225   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 8215 /9254  | SUN     | GERMAN   | 411     | 225   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 5415 /6784  | THUR    | ENGLISH  | 147     | 080   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 5415 /4540  | THUR    | ENGLISH  | 061     | 110   | 5F     |
| 2100 | 5415 /4540  | FRI     | ENGLISH  | 061     | 110   | 5F     |

The Control Frequencies can also be noted as follows,

|      |             |       |         |
|------|-------------|-------|---------|
| 0030 | 7541 /5205  | DAILY | ENGLISH |
| 0130 | 7763        | DAILY | ENGLISH |
| 0230 | 7763        | DAILY | ENGLISH |
| 0630 | 5205 /9204  | DAILY | ENGLISH |
| 1330 | 13425/16434 | DAILY | ENGLISH |
| 1730 | 5205 /8559  | DAILY | ENGLISH |

Thank You to Simon Mason and Mike Chace for the logs of Counting Stations.

In the next issue of ENIGMA, Simon Mason Writes.....  
On The Stations "Which Have Disappeared Over The Last  
Few Years....."

## *The "Three Note Oddity"*

*Monitoring Information (July to November 1993)*

*Mike, Bath, UK*

This station is a regular, having appeared every Sunday evening since I heard it first in July 1993.

### **Message Characteristics**

The transmission is carried on AM with rather low modulation depth which makes the station rather difficult to hear under poor conditions even though the carrier is strong.

The transmitter is switched on at 2210 local time precisely. There then follows a slow, repeated three tone rising-scale sequence until 2215.

If you have ever dialled an incorrect number over the German telephone network and were greeted by the cheery "Keine Anschluß unter diese Nummer" (No connection on this number) announcement, you will hear the *exact* same tones played before the announcement is repeated! A coincidence? I wonder?

At 2215 we are greeted by the German YL announcer. The format of the message is as follows:

*"Achtung, Achtung"      Five Figure groups, Each group repeated once      "Ende, Ende"*

This whole message is then repeated once more, completing the transmission. Delivery is clear, brisk and rather deadpan although under noisy conditions, it is sometimes rather difficult to distinguish between "Neun" (Nine) and "Null" (Zero). Under good conditions, there is a noticeable metallic echo on the voice.

The transmitter stays keyed for about a minute and is then switched off.

### **Schedule Information**

If you've read Simon Mason's excellent book about the European Numbers Stations "Secret Signals", you'll notice that there is a short section explaining just why this station earned its nickname. The schedule that I've noted reinforces the "oddity" in the station's name. Here it is:

On the first Sunday of each month, the station moves to a new frequency. It stays on that frequency for each Sunday of that month and repeats the same message every Sunday in the month. A new month brings a new frequency and a new "Message of the Month".

The change in frequency makes the station rather difficult to find and I can remember a few tense Sunday evenings spent trawling the frequencies near the last one in order to find the characteristic three tone sign-on signal. Fortunately, the station only seems to move a few 100kHz each month; now that I know that, things get a little less fraught



when the first Sunday of the month comes along! The frequencies for the past months were as follows:

| Month (1993) | Frequency (kHz) |
|--------------|-----------------|
| July         | 5718            |
| August       | 5617            |
| September    | 5487            |
| October      | 4827            |
| November     | 4139            |
| December     | 3815            |

January 4126

There does not appear to be a "paired" frequency as is often the case with other numbers stations.

None of these frequencies correspond to those listed in "Secret Signals" and I would be interested to hear from anyone else who has heard the station outside of the last few months. Perhaps there is a trend to the change in frequency which might give a clue as to the reason for the monthly change? I would also be very interested to hear from any other monitors who may have heard the station on other days or at other times. Despite many attempts to find an alternative time and day, Sundays at 2215 local time remains the only one found.

#### Some Clues?

September was an interesting month. On September the 26th, I waited for the usual three tone rising scale to start at 2210 local time. It never appeared. In vain I tuned around but couldn't find the signal. That weekend, having listened to Deutsche Welle, I remembered that they had announced a change to schedules due to the change to Central European Time — clocks in Europe had gone back an hour and the UK was still on British Summertime. I wondered if the *Three Note Oddity* might have forgotten to compensate for the few weeks where the UK and central Europe are separated by two hours time. Sure enough, the station appeared an hour later at 2310 local time. Of course, with the UK now back to GMT, the usual transmission time is again 2210 local time. I'm sure that we can ascertain from this that the station transmits from central Europe and that the target area may well be the UK.

## Message Texts

Here are the full messages sent during the months July to November 1993:

### July (21 x 5 Figure Groups)

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 49587 | 43210 | 46587 | 39780 | 41657 | 43265 | 41516 | 43528 | 76231 | 35490 |
| 24917 | 41569 | 06087 | 34254 | 64758 | 43521 | 50809 | 43567 | 43254 | 09045 |
| 86745 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |

### August (27 x 5 Figure Groups)

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 39485 | 60179 | 24326 | 01064 | 97867 | 21314 | 59687 | 29298 | 08967 | 46534 |
| 65477 | 86745 | 31415 | 90806 | 48576 | 54376 | 79815 | 46349 | 56423 | 50789 |
| 50087 | 32451 | 49586 | 32453 | 59780 | 09562 | 72438 |       |       |       |

### September (41 x 5 Figure Groups)

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 01088 | 31415 | 69780 | 24654 | 64522 | 61789 | 41576 | 40408 | 43576 | 21314 |
| 24476 | 15162 | 50897 | 48290 | 31415 | 64378 | 21314 | 01046 | 06734 | 43578 |
| 69788 | 41315 | 24378 | 97843 | 02043 | 96847 | 42364 | 61781 | 08934 | 86743 |
| 14533 | 99867 | 43657 | 24378 | 00167 | 42364 | 69788 | 32109 | 49586 | 53429 |
| 08795 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |

### October (34 x 5 Figure Groups)

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 34201 | 49587 | 46550 | 14153 | 97854 | 43567 | 22334 | 10089 | 67584 | 97832 |
| 06732 | 97785 | 41529 | 40785 | 35432 | 99878 | 07856 | 41516 | 07657 | 78691 |
| 15648 | 29387 | 47566 | 08967 | 17845 | 43576 | 79423 | 60783 | 09452 | 41882 |
| 45387 | 00118 | 39487 | 43256 |       |       |       |       |       |       |

### November (38 x 5 Figure Groups)

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 87990 | 13145 | 69782 | 40108 | 39897 | 54672 | 31910 | 04538 | 43598 | 24113 |
| 64557 | 29380 | 41878 | 40907 | 24386 | 69780 | 43562 | 59783 | 60109 | 43556 |
| 57534 | 59682 | 10108 | 49782 | 49876 | 60984 | 41516 | 98723 | 08742 | 09562 |
| 49780 | 21357 | 97856 | 40015 | 39487 | 23249 | 41516 | 60109 |       |       |

It is interesting to note that the same code word often occurs more than once in the same message and also in other messages. For example, in November 60109 appeared twice and 41516 appears in July, October and November's messages. This is unusual in most cyphering systems.