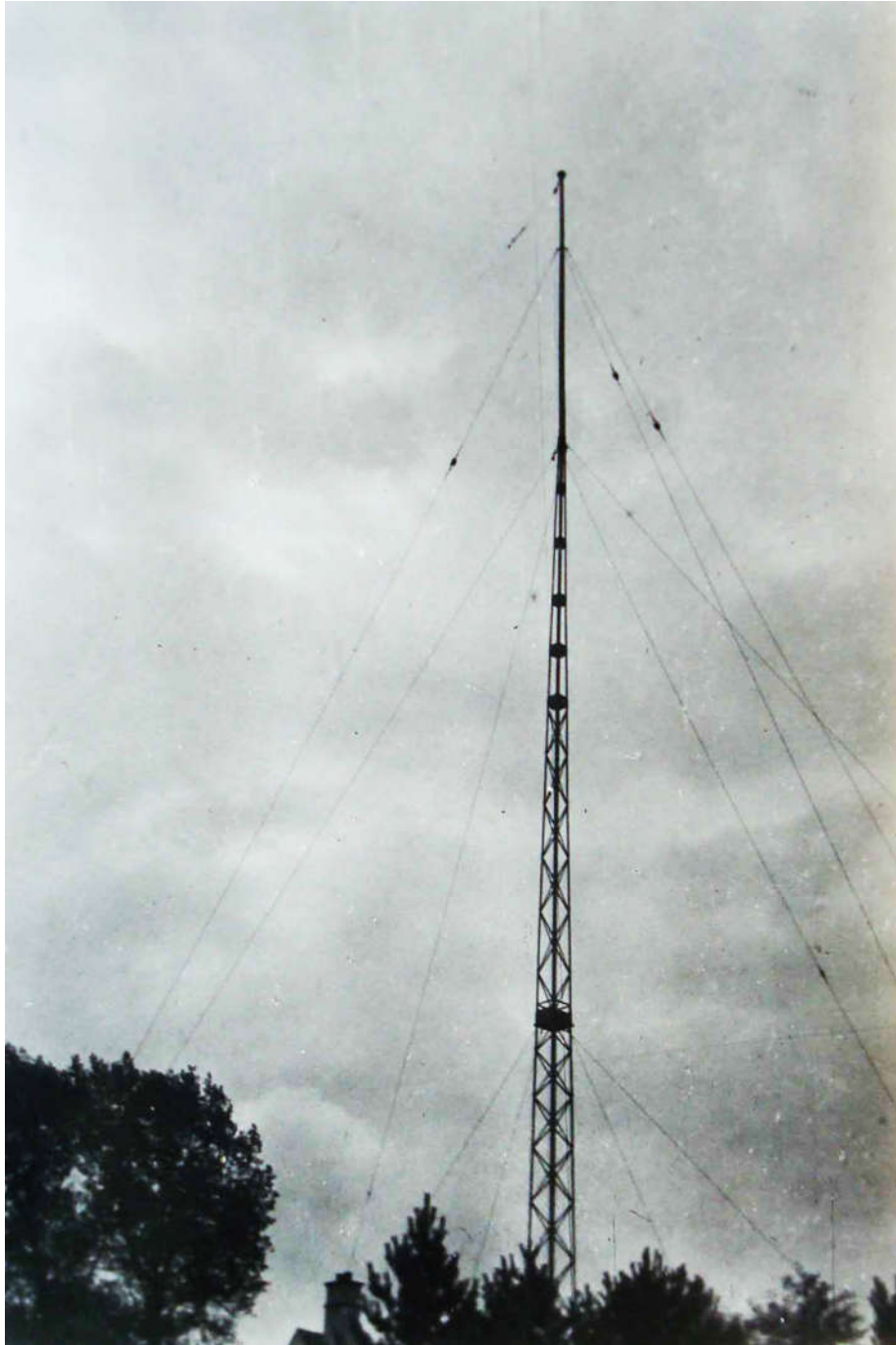




EUGEN GERALD MARCUSE 1886 - 1961

PETER E SMITH  
G4JNU



AERIAL AT COOMBE DINGLE CATERHAM, SURREY IN 1927

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank:

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### References

The Radio Society of Great Britain

The T&R Bulletin

Many thanks to members of the family who dotted the i's and crossed the t's.

Peter Smith G4JNU

April 2013

First Printed in 2013

PRODUCTION: Martin Maynard G8CIX

COVER: Photo of Gerald Marcuse. Probably taken in his shack at The Ranch, Sonning on Thames

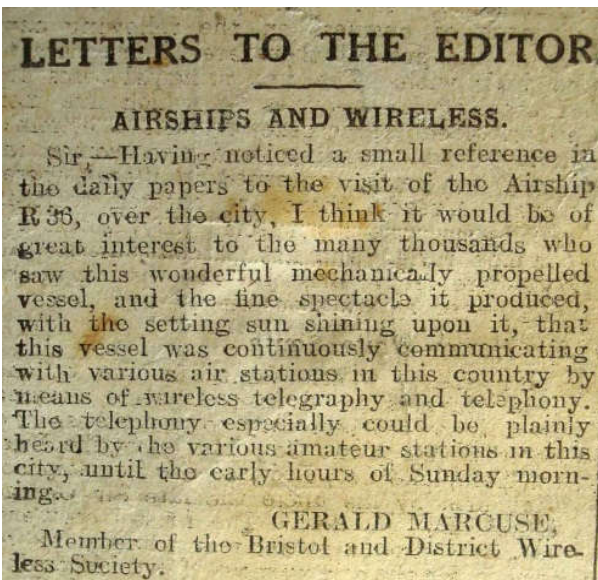
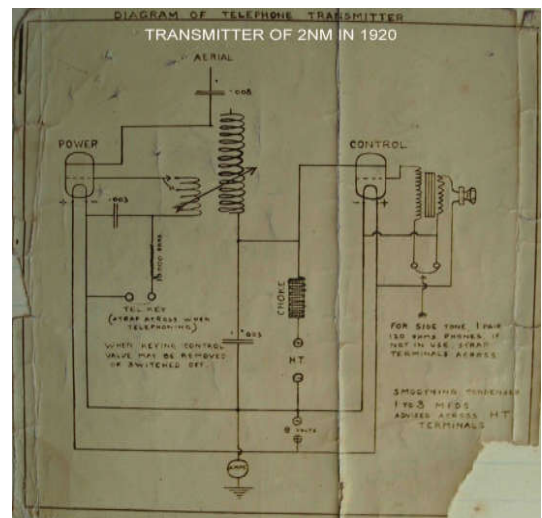
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## EUGEN GERALD MARCUSE

Gerald Marcuse was born in Sutton, Surrey on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1886. He was one of three children, having an elder brother, Walter Douglas and a younger sister, Dorothy Maude. In 1892 he attended Caterham Primary School and then went to the local secondary school. In 1903 he entered the Crystal Palace School of Engineering which he left in 1909 with a degree in engineering. He served an apprenticeship with Messrs Ruston and Proctor in Lincoln who were well known builders of road rollers and tractors. They exported steam engines to all corners of the globe and so his job took him to many parts of the world.

His interest in radio began in 1910 but it was not until 1913, when he had finished travelling, that he applied to the General Post Office for an experimental wireless licence. Like many experimenters he was keen to get started and, using a spark coil with a ½ inch spark purchased from Gamages and a crystal receiver, he was on the air. His contacts with local amateurs were soon put on hold when war broke out in 1914. The war ended in 1918 but licences were not re-issued until 1920, when Gerald was licenced as 2NM from a QTH in Bristol.



This letter to the editor, published in 1921 illustrates the interest shown in one of the uses of wireless for communication.

In 1922 he moved back to Caterham, Surrey, and became well known for promoting Amateur Radio on many fronts. The QTH was well situated at over 600 feet above sea level, and he had the "wherewithal" to build a state-of-the-art station. The original aerial consisted of a 90ft long, 8 wire, 2ft diameter cage, suspended between two 65ft high masts. Later, in 1924, the height of the free end lattice steel tower was increased with the addition of a 25ft wooden extension. The tower was erected by Cooper and Scrutton who were skilled in rigging ships. On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1923 he gave a demonstration of an early "Loudspeaker/Broadcast" in the local Hill School and in the same year joined his father's seed merchants company at 36 Mincing Lane in the City of London.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1921, W.F. Burne 2KW of the Manchester Wireless Society became the first British station to receive transmissions from America. So the next challenge was two way working. Three scheduled tests had been unsuccessful, so a fourth was arranged to commence on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1923. For 10 days British amateurs would transmit to a dedicated time table, then they would listen for 10 days. The third period would start on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1924 when two way contacts would be attempted. The problems for British amateurs were a power restriction and that wavelengths below 200 metres were not allowed. A few transatlantic permits were issued and the licence of G2NM was amended to allow operation between 200m and 90m



The time table demonstrates how the transmissions were controlled each day

TRANSATLANTIC TESTS 1923-24.  
TIME TABLE OF TRANSMISSIONS FOR 2NM.

-----

TEXT OF TRANSMISSIONS TO BE MADE DURING EACH OF YOUR PERIODS:-

ARRL ARRL ARRL DE G2NM G2NM G2NM Code word three times.  
(to be repeated as often as necessary to fill the period).

A different code word has been allocated to each transmitter for each morning of the Tests, and the proper code word should be used on each occasion in all test transmissions in the form set out above. You are requested to transmit only during the periods which have been allotted to you and not at other times so as to avoid confusion. Your code words and transmission times are set out below:-

DATE	CODE WORDS	TRANSMISSION TIMES G.M.T.
1923 Dec.		
22nd.	OWFFD	0210 - 0225. 2
23rd.	SAKKT	0525 - 0540. 2.7
24th.	VDNNW	<del>FWWF</del> / <del>Z</del> / <del>FWWF</del> 0225 - 0240. 2.1
25th.	COYYL	0545 - 0600. 3.1
26th.	JTDDQ	0235 - 0250. 3.2
27th.	PZLLW	0100 - 0115. 3.5
28th.	TOPPA	0245 - 0300 3.6
29th.	XJTTF	0115 - 0130. 3.9
30th.	BOZZN	0100 - 0115. <u>          </u>
31st.	GSDDR	0145 - 0200 3.2

There is a grey area regarding the powers and wavelengths used but G2NM was one of the successful stations. Ironically, the first two-way contact was made before the start of the tests by Jack Partridge 2KF on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1923. This was the turning point that demonstrated how home built transmitters running low powers at higher frequencies achieved more than high power commercial stations running many kilowatts. Rapid strides were made in 1924 with contacts made to most regions of the globe.

21st OCTOBER 1924

**IN TOUCH WITH NEW ZEALAND.**

In addition to the two mentioned in yesterday's "Daily News," two more wireless amateurs held two-way communication with New Zealand during the week-end.

Mr. G. Marcuse, of Caterham (2NM), got into touch with the New Zealand amateur whose call sign is 4AG, while Mr. J. A. Partridge, of Merton (2KF) communicated with another New Zealand amateur with a call sign 4AK. Both worked on a wave-length of approximately 96 metres."

**CHESS BY WIRELESS.**  
*Daily Mail* — 23/12/24

**REFUSAL TO PERMIT GAME ACROSS ATLANTIC.**

The Postmaster-General has refused to permit a game of chess being played across the Atlantic by means of wireless between Oxford University and Haverford University, U.S.A.

The Americans had arranged to use their own university set and the British students that of Mr. Gerald Marcuse, holder of an experimental licence, of Caterham, Surrey.

The Post Office decision is that "an exchange of messages relating to a chess match could not be regarded as a bona-fide experiment in wireless telegraphy."





On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1924 Gerald Marcuse was appointed "Manager of the British Isles" by The American Radio Relay League. In April 1925 a conference of international amateur radio societies took place in Paris. Gerald Marcuse, who was honorary secretary of the T & R section of the RSGB, was involved in the creation of the International Amateur Radio Union and was elected Vice President.

G2NM was the first English station to contact the Base Station, SA WJS, of the Hamilton Rice Expedition situated at Boa Vista on the Rio Branca in Brazil. Messages were passed on to the Royal Geographical Society (R.G.S.) in London and in turn the R.G.S. requested that Marcuse be allowed to relay information on a regular basis. In April Marcuse negotiated a change of his licence with the G.P.O. and was allowed a power limit of 1 kW using the spot wavelengths of 23m and 45m and in the band 90m to 200m. There is no record of Marcuse being made an Honorary Member of the R.G.S. but he received mentions in Vol. 65 No. 3 Page 241 published in March 1925, and Vol. 66 No. 1 Page 5 published in June 1925.



Wireless used by Dr. Hamilton Rice - Courtesy R.G.S.

## RADIO TALK WITH EXPLORERS.

20th January 1925  
CATERHAM TO THE WILDS OF BRAZIL.

Perhaps the most romantic of all wireless romances occurred at six o'clock yesterday morning, when Mr. Gerald Marcuse, a Caterham amateur, suddenly found himself talking to the Rice exploration expedition, buried in the wilds of Brazil, 7,000 miles away.

The expedition, headed by Mr. Hamilton Rice, an American, left London last summer to search for the legendary "white Indians," supposed to exist somewhere in South America. It is now 1,000 miles up the Amazon, and 200 miles from the nearest river.

Nothing had been heard of it for some time, but its silence was dramatically broken yesterday.

"I had been in communication with a North American station, when I heard a faint call," said Mr. Marcuse to a "Daily Express" representative yesterday.

"It came from the Rice expedition. 'What is the weather like?' I asked; and my caller replied 'Balmy and warm in the day—temperature ninety degrees—but it is very cold at night. A high wind is reaching us from the pampas, and the river currents are very swift.'"

The two men then said good-bye, and arranged to speak to each other again.

The small set carried by the expedition has an aerial input power of 100 watts, and uses a short wave-length.

## ARCTIC WIRELESS.

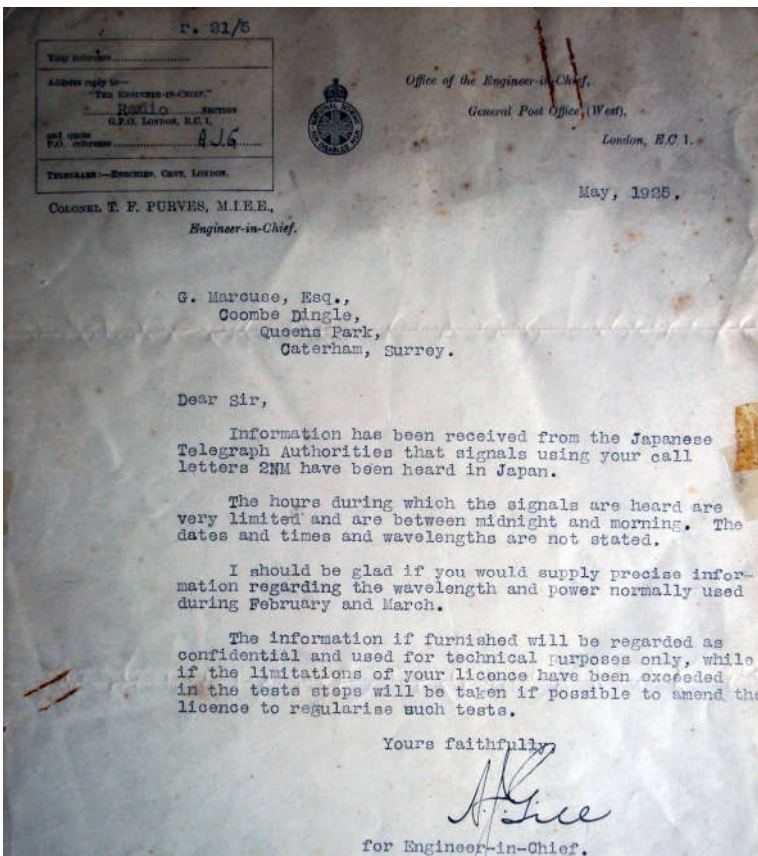
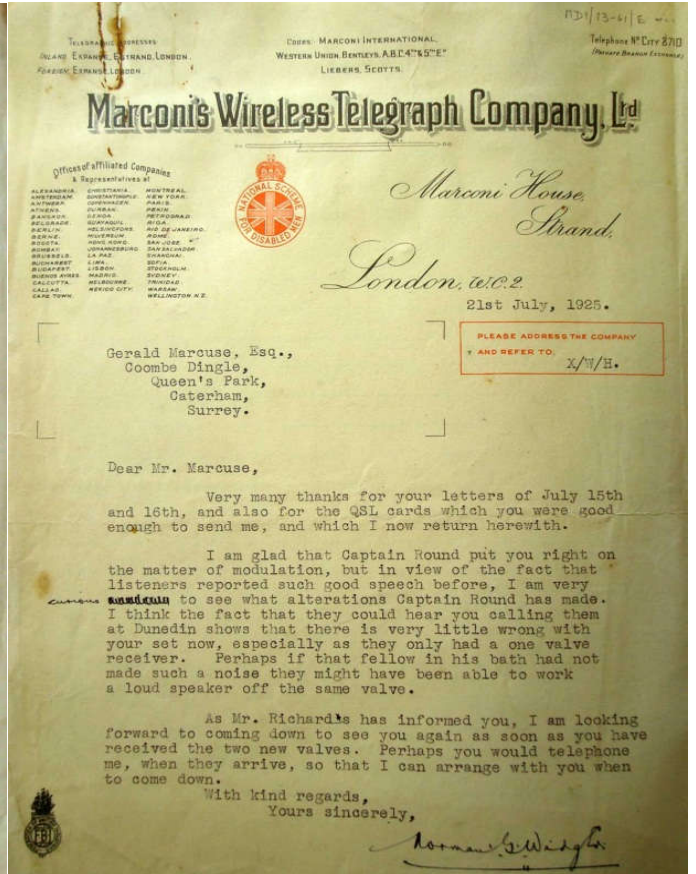
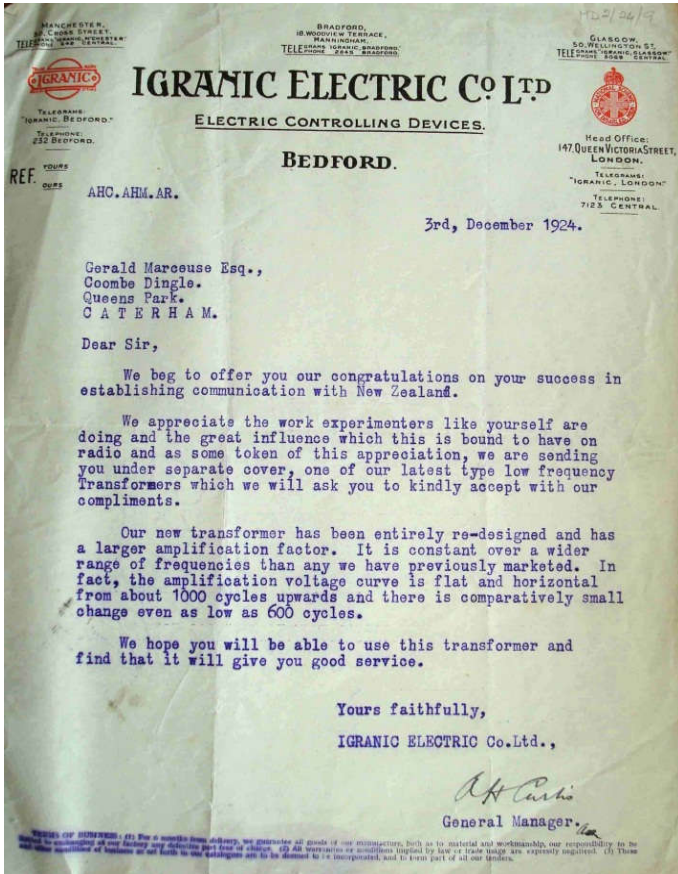
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.  
OTTAWA, Monday.

Officers of the Canadian Government steamer Arctic, who have just returned from a 6,000-miles cruise around the far northern islands of Canada, listened to wireless reports of the Wills-Firpo fight in the United States.

The messages were received over a distance of 2,100 miles. The steamer received daily Press reports by wireless, even though the cruise carried her far to the north of the Arctic Circle. The most distant message received from an amateur was one from Gerald Marcuse, of Caterham, Surrey.

Daily Mail 8<sup>th</sup> October circa 1924





Gerald Marcuse was able to get help from his many contacts. The Marconi Company loaned him a Reiss carbon microphone and gave him the latest valves to "test". When his high voltage generator blew up, Captain Mullard arranged for it to be rewound free of charge and also presented him with power valves. These companies encouraged the Amateurs in their endeavours to communicate around the world and their achievements helped to promote the rapid development of wireless and related products. The letter from the G.P.O. demonstrates the co-operation he received from that organisation, which, in his words, "was more than I received from the BBC".

During the stay at Caterham, Marcuse spent much of his time and money promoting wireless throughout the world and the many exploits and achievements became known to the general public through numerous entries in the newspapers. Encouraged by the interest abroad, he received a concert at the Savoy that was being broadcast by the BBC, on a receiver at the bottom of the garden and retransmitted it to amateurs in the USA.



This broadcast received a very favourable report in the Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass. USA on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1925. In 1960 Marcuse was interviewed and a transcript made from the recording. Below is an extract from that interview in which he was asked what inspired him to want to start the Empire broadcasts. It would appear that it was the events in Bermuda involving the retransmission of his transmissions by radio amateur BER to other listeners on the islands that was the trigger.

Yes. It really started with Bermuda. BER - a fellow there was a very enthusiastic amateur. Still alive. Called himself BER. He used to receive me on 32.5 and rebroadcast in the islands. Then I had a letter from a lady. She wrote "I am enchanted with your voice which I hear every Sunday morning and I have three lovely daughters and a flourishing business. If you would like to come over you can have the pick of the daughters and the business." Unfortunately I cannot find that letter. That is absolute gospel.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1927 Marcuse applied to the GPO to have his licence extended so that he could transmit to the British Empire and in August he received the letter giving permission to transmit speech and music for a period of six months from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

## AMATEUR SENDS MUSIC ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

**Savoy Music Clearly Heard  
Reradiocast on 45 Meter  
Wave by Marcuse**


CATERHAM, Surrey, Jan. 9 — Amateur radio station 2NM of this town, owned and operated by Gerald Marcuse, vice-president of the International Amateur Radio Union, has been acquiring a record of meritorious performance on radio- phone in reradiocasting programs of the British Broadcasting Com- pany. Mr. Marcuse, who is also secretary of the Radio Society of Great Britain and a member of the Ameri- can Radio Relay League, has at- tained remarkable success with his reradiocast work.

Working on a wavelength of 45 meters, he has succeeded in pre- senting a number of concerts at the Savoy Hotel, London, to fellow radio amateurs in the eastern parts of Canada and the United States. Mr. Marcuse has received reports from many of these stations that the vocal parts of these reradiocasts have proven particularly satisfac- tory and lifelike in their quality.

Your reference

P.O. reference

All communications should be addressed to  
THE SECRETARY,  
General Post Office.



GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
LONDON, E.C.1

9 August, 1927.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 21st June, asking for an extension of your transoceanic wireless transmitting licence so as to enable experiments to be carried out in transmitting telephony to parts of the British Empire, I am directed by the Postmaster General to convey his authority for transmission of speech and music for a period not exceeding six months from the 1st September next by means of wireless telephony with power for transmission not exceeding 1 k.w. and waves of 23 and 33 metres, on the understanding that continuous transmissions will not take place on more than three days a week (Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays or Sundays) and will not exceed a duration of two hours on each occasion.

The following special conditions are attached to this authority, viz :-

- (1) That items of current news value shall not be included in any programme;
- (2) that not more than 50 gramophone records shall be utilised during the whole period of the experiments;

G. Marcuse, Esq. (3)/

- (3) that the transmissions shall not include an advertisement of the Gramophone Company or of any other body or person;
- (4) that any transmission shall be discontinued on demand if it interferes with Government or commercial ~~working~~ <sup>working</sup>; and
- (5) that this authority shall be subject to withdrawal or modification at any time at the Postmaster General's discretion should occasion arise.

I am to call your attention to the statement in the Post Office letter of the 27th June last that the Postmaster General cannot hold out any hope that a licence to transmit regular programmes to the Dominions or Colonies would be granted to any other body than the British Broadcasting Corporation.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
*W.S. Deak*



**EMPIRE BROADCAST EXPERIMENTS**  
**CONDEMNED BY BRITISH CORPORATION**  
**"PUBLICITY STUNT"**

BY TELEGRAPH.—PRESS ASSOCIATION.  
 COPYRIGHT  
 London, September 9.

The British Broadcasting Corporation, in an official announcement on Empire broadcasting, deploras the present unfortunate exploitation as a publicity stunt," giving a wholly artificial importance to the admittedly unsatisfactory and irregular direct reception, available merely to a limited number of experimenters.

The corporation points out that the problem of effective Empire broadcasting is the linking of systems for the benefit of the general public, rather than the provision of sporadic technical entertainment for a few amateurs. The corporation is convinced that the premature and unsound proposals so vigorously advocated in certain quarters are definitely inimical to success, and refuse to undertake a service until it is possible as a minimum to guarantee a reasonable service. There must be some minimum of reliability, continuity, intelligibility, and quality. It is hoped shortly to enable the King to address orally his 400,000,000 subjects throughout the world, but it would be of no advantage to the Empire if the attempt resulted in a fiasco. A new series of experiments would be conducted in October.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1927 the British Broadcasting Corporation responded in an official announcement concerning Empire broadcasting printed in a London newspaper. They deplored the unfortunate exploitation as a publicity stunt. [See below for one of many responses]

14/9/27

- 2 -

other countries, amateurs were confined to 200 meters and less. In those days, absolutely nothing was known of these shorter waves, and it is just wonderful pages of history and credit to the amateurs throughout the world how they demonstrated the utility and characteristics of short waves. It is clear and convincing proof of their good foundation work when one hears high powered commercial stations belonging to G.B., U.S.A., France, Germany, Italy all going continuously about 20-40 meters. Conspicuous by its absence is the due and just acknowledgement of credit to the pioneer work of we amateurs throughout the world that is owing to us by the large concerns.

I ask you a question -- Were we, any or all of us, seeking publicity in those days? - Answer, NONE. Why, even the history of amateur work, instances can be found where life was offered and saved.

I ask your Corporation to give heed to my remarks.

The way 2NM has stepped into the breach is typical of amateur work. We receive short wave broadcasts from KDKA and WGY regularly here in New Zealand, (Daily, in fact, at times) and Dutch PCJJ has recently been doing good work - re-broadcasting - YOUR (2LO) job) and now 2NM feels that the Empire broadcasting job must be started sooner or later by an Englishman, and off he goes on the job. What is your attitude? Why, you pour nothing but sarcasm on his work, and say through the Press, before he has had a chance to do one thing or the other, "that it will not be any good" and wear long faces. Your ideas and tone are exactly three to four years out of date. They are on a par with the times when we were barred to 200 meters and less.

Unless someone tries, no one will succeed. So, for Goodness' sake climb down off your mountain of cock-sureness of the failure of 2NM's work, and offer him, or anyone else, who likes to shoulder the burden, all possible aid.

Why don't you show a keen lead, and establish a good 20 Kw. 30 meter station.? You do your end, and we will do ours. Another thing - it will pay you to do is to get in touch with Dr. Miles A. F. Barnett, D.Sc. Cambridge University, through the N.Z. High Commissioner, as he will be returning to N.Z. soon, and he will be able to give sound advice to your Coy. re N.Z. conditions.

In conclusion, I wish to plead again for co-operation for and between your Coy. and we amateurs throughout the world. Help 2NM, and do not throw cold water on his work. Ask yourself the question - Can the B.B.C point to anything any practical proof that it is doing its fair share to aid Empire broadcasting?

Issuing statements to the Press saying that you are convinced that it will be a failure is, in my opinion, just the opposite to what you should be doing. Go and build a station of your own. Help 2NM for all you are worth, and, above all, bring your notions of world-wide amateurs up-to-date.

I think that if your Coy. received a few copies of Q.S.T., you would be sadder but wiser.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

*Eugen Gerald Marcuse*  
 oz 2 AG

P. O. Box 9,  
 OSBORNE, N.Z.  
 Sept. 1927

The Chairman,  
*Public Committee*  
 British Broadcasting Corporation,  
 LONDON.

Dear Sir,

I am attaching the Press clipping from the N.Z. papers as it appeared here, and wish to comment on the matter referred to.

I consider the tone of your Company's official announcement as deplorable, - in fact, childlike - coming from an organisation such as yours. In the first place, why harp on the "publicity stunt" idea? Your organisation has a lop-sided view of things related to amateur experimenting. When next you want to rave and moan about the doings of any amateurs in England, it will be as well to remember that there is a world-wide feeling of good-fellowship amongst these "publicity stunting" amateurs, and the B.B.C. are going to raise merry H-- if they are after scalps of someone in England.

In your reference to "broadcasting benefitting the general public rather than providing sporadic technical entertainment for a few amateurs", it is implied that we amateurs can't see that, or do not agree to that. It is a logical deduction that broadcasting benefits the public, and it does not require a head full of grey hairs either to come to that conclusion.

Further on in the article, it refers to the Corporation being convinced that certain proposals are premature and unsound. I do not know what the proposals are you refer to, but I presume they are the ones advocated by G. Marcuse to hurry up and actually DO something in the line of Empire Broadcasting, by someone in the Empire. Later on are remarks about reliability, intelligibility, etc. of the proposed service. - All very well - but before you can build anything, you want some foundation. Now, I propose to relate to you just how these foundations have already been prepared, and by whom.

After the war, Radio became something real - tho' mainly experiments. Amateurs who were interested in transmission were restricted, and all the high-frilled red tape riles possible to invent were made for them. In U.S.A. and some



On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1927 Marcuse transmitted a special concert to Australia. Unfortunately the experiment was only partly successful due to a breakdown in the transmitter power supply. He requested permission from the Post Office to re-transmit the following week but this was rejected. "Pressure from the BBC was suspected."

For the Empire Broadcasts he enlisted the help of his friend Percy Valentine who set up a sound studio in his music room. Two Post Office telephone lines were rented so that the music at Percy's QTH could be sent to the 1 kW transmitter of G2NM. The second line was used for talkback. Marcuse transmitted on 32 metres and later confessed to using a power in excess of 1 kW.

E. T. C. STAFF MESS,  
ASCENSION ISLAND.  
Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1927.

Dear Mr. Marcuse.

I am writing to let you know that when listening in last night at 11 pm local time (that's an hour slow of G.M.T.) I heard big ben striking midnight, at first I thought I might have picked up 5SW if this station is working yet. However I feel pretty certain that during the course of the next half hour I heard you say this is British 2 N.M. calling, but exactly what the programme consisted of I can't tell you except that it was chiefly dance music & orchestral items, at half past eleven local you apparently closed down

Nachrichten - Schnelldienst für den Rundfunk und die gesamte Funktechnik  
Funk - Artikel und -Feuilletondienst

Herausgeber: Dr. jur. W. WINCKLER  
Schriftleitung: Berlin-Lichterfelde, Dürenstr. 31  
Fernsprecher: Lichterfelde 4639 u. 1168  
Postcheckkonto: Berlin Nr. 102377

**FUNK EXPRESS**  
(Rundfunk-Nachrichten)

Berlin-Lichterfelde, den 26. Mai 1928,  
Dürenstraße 31

to the shortwave Broadcasting transmitter  
" 2 N M "

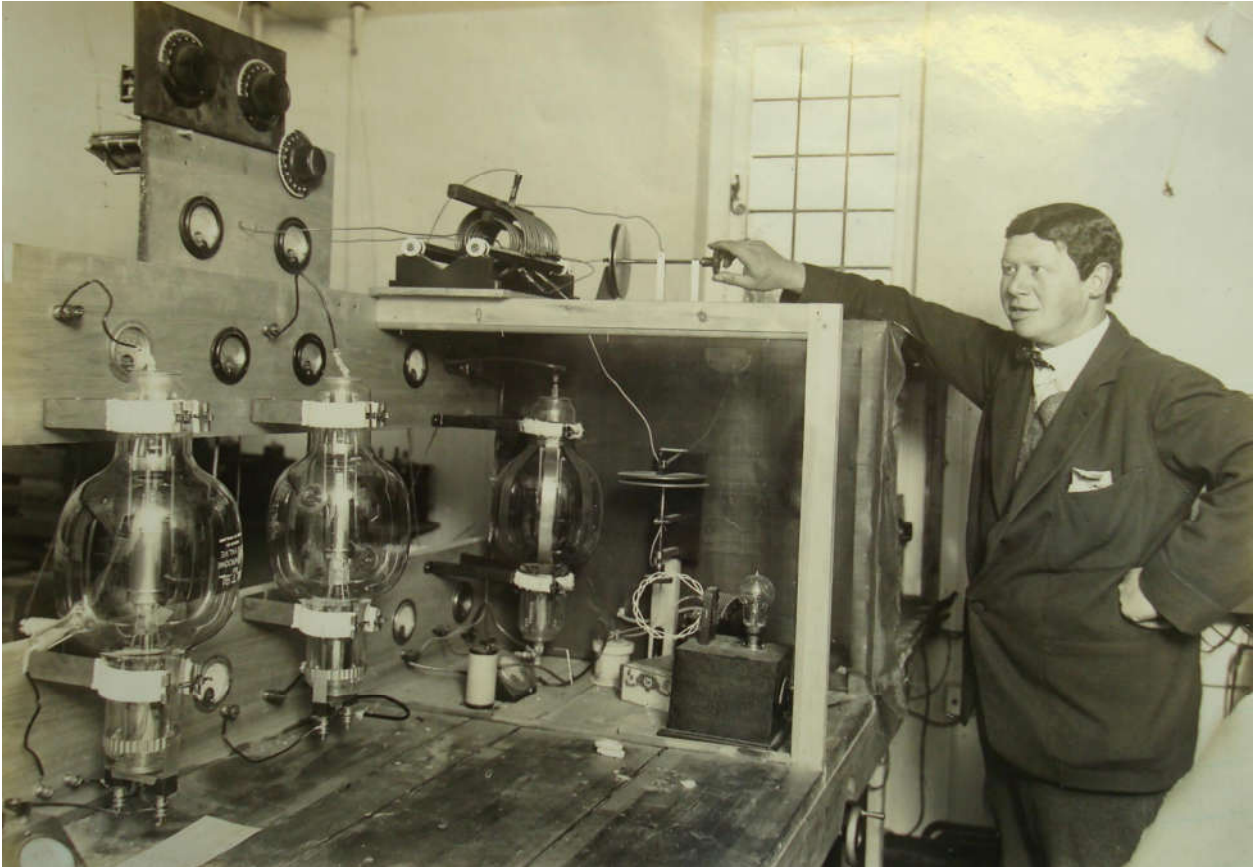
Dear Sir,

I just must tell you, that 2 N<sup>M</sup> seems to me to be the best shortwave broadcasting transmitter that exists in Europe. I had the chance to get you twice and both times you have been so clear and strong, as no other european station I would like very much to have some details about your station, and want to write an article in my correspondance "funkexpress" about your station. You are much clearer, louder ~~and~~ as the two "bigstations" 5 SW Chelmsford and PCJJ Eindhoven. Once you announced, that your power is only 1 kW. The two other stations have 15 and 30 kW, you know. But you are the very best !!! Please write me the times you are sending, and tell me the times in british summertime, that is corresponding to Berlin time.

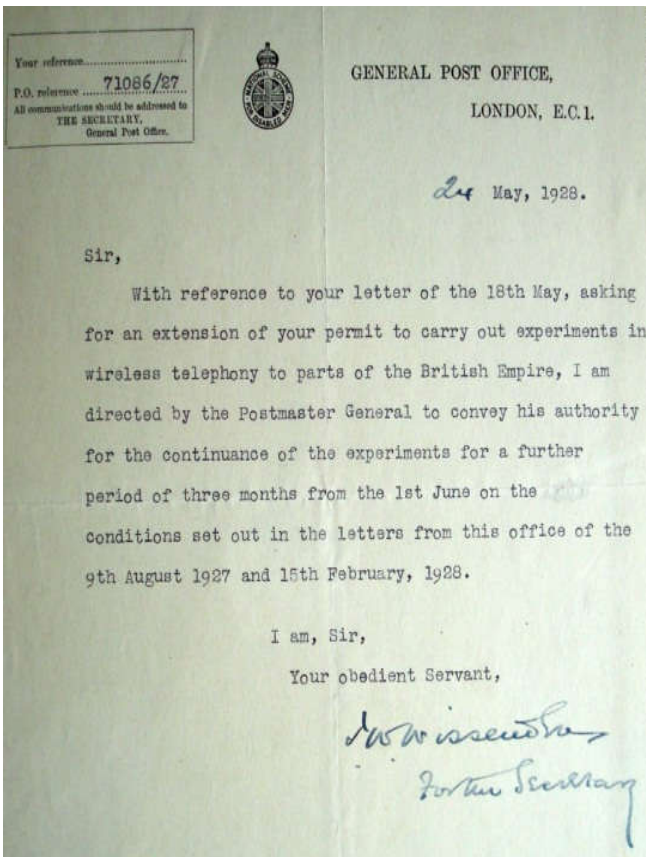
believe me very sincerely yours  
Dr. Winckler

[Quote from transcript Nov 1960] "everybody clamoured for Big Ben and nobody would give me a recording. I had to wait until 12.00 – it was the only time in those days they did it. We used to broadcast the thrushes in the morning from Caterham. (...) chiefly gramophone records I expect? Yes, and live broadcast from the B.B.C. Had a receiver at the bottom of the garden – remote control and I used to switch that on to receive them. Your licence permitted you to rebroadcast? It didn't, but I did not care in those days. It cost me several thousand pounds but I achieved my object. My father said I was wasting my money because there was no revenue and he only believed in revenue. Yes there was no money. No money – all output. I used to get various artists down from London. Sent up the car and fetched them. Marconi were more helpful than the B.B.C.? Yes, Marconi were a great help. I still have their microphone."





THE SHACK OF G2NM IN SEPTEMBER 1927



Gerald continued the Empire Broadcasts on 32 metres until August 1928. A few weeks before these finished, the BBC had started regular transmissions on 20 metres from their experimental short-wave station 5SW at Chelmsford. It is interesting to note that reports show that the signals from G2NM were stronger and more consistently received.

In 1929 GM was elected President of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Also in August of that year he moved from Caterham to the Ranch, West Drive in Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire. He continued his amateur activities and his support of the R.S.G.B.

THE T & R BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 1932

**R.S.G.B. AND N.P.L. CALIBRATION SERVICES.**

R.S.G.B. Calibration Service takes place from G2NM (Sonning-on-Thames) on each Sunday at 11.00 and 23.00 and Thursday at 23.00 G.M.T. (or B.S.T. if in force) in the 3.500 K.C. band.

The N.P.L. Service is given on the first Tuesday in March, June, September and December from G5HW at 21.00 G.M.T on 1,785 K.C.





On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1931 he married Irene Rose at the Savoy Chapel in London.

In December 1934 the Reading And District Amateur Radio Club was formed. Marcuse was one of the founder members.

THE T. & R. BULLETIN DECEMBER 1934  
DISTRICT 7 (southern)

Mr. G. Marcuse (G2NM) has agreed to take office as C.R. for Berkshire, and in conjunction with the other members in the Reading district, is already holding monthly meetings. Any Berkshire member who has not yet received particulars of these meetings should get in touch with Mr. Marcuse.

The telephone records of 1937 show:  
"Marcuse Gerald, Sandy Shore, Clayton Rd. Selsey 82" Was this a holiday cottage?

About this time he was approached by the Air Ministry to assist in organising the Royal Air Force Civilian Wireless Reserve.

In 1939 he had a boat built with the following specification.

EVENING GAZETTE SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> 1938

## *Sonning Man To Aid R.A.F. Radio Plan*

### INAUGURATED EMPIRE BROADCASTS

Mr. Gerald Marcuse, of The Ranch, West Drive, Sonning, famous as a radio amateur, has been approached by the Air Ministry to assist in organising the Royal Air Force Civilian Wireless Reserve.

Mr. Marcuse is known throughout the world for the Empire broadcasts he inaugurated in 1927, and his selection is not a surprise to the radio world. He probably has more communication records to his name than any other amateur.

"The movement has been going on for about a year," he said. "About that time ago I was first approached by the Ministry. The Navy already have a civilian wireless reserve, and now the Royal Air Force want a similar auxiliary. There are about 800 amateurs working for the Navy."

Mr. Marcuse said that more details of the plans would probably be made to-morrow, when an Air Ministry official is to speak at the Convention of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Boat Name: My Babe II  
Boat Length: 32 ft  
Boat Beam: 8ft 3ins  
Boat Draft: 3ft  
Boat Displacement: 7.56 tons  
Boat Engine; 2 X Gray Petrol  
Boat Construction: Carvel  
Boat Builder: Osborne, Littlehampton  
Boat Year: 1939

It should be noted that it was built for Gerald Marcuse of Bosham. Records show that she was taken over by the Admiralty in 1940 for service in Dunkirk, but there is no record that she sailed. After the war her new owner, A.C. Draycott changed her name to Alliance and then she had no less than eight owners before D.B. Stewart, her latest owner, changed her name to Lady Anita.

In 1939 Arthur Watts (G5UN) was approached by Lord Sandhurst (MI 5) to find out if radio amateurs could help in setting up a listening watch on behalf of the Radio Security Service (RSS). Marcuse was appointed as a Voluntary Intercept (VI) Group Leader for the Berkshire area. His role was to talk to suitable local amateurs and send them the necessary paper-work. A meeting was then organised at the Berkshire Police Establishment at the Abbey Gateway in Reading where the VIs were introduced to Lord Sandhurst and Captain Alan Sabine.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1939 GM obtained a Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelephony. This authorised him to act as radiotelephone operator on board a British ship equipped with a radiotelephone installation of which the power of the carrier wave in the aerial does not exceed 50 watts.



No. C/1869

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

**Restricted Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelephony**  
granted by the Postmaster General.

This is to certify that under the provisions of the General Radio-communication Regulations annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, 1932, Mr. Eugen Gerald Marcuse has been examined in Radiotelephony and has passed in :-

- (a) Knowledge of the adjustment and working of radiotelephone apparatus.
- (b) Sending and receiving spoken messages correctly by telephone.
- (c) Knowledge of the Regulations applying to the exchange of radiotelephone communications and of the part of the Radiocommunication Regulations relating to the safety of life.

It is also certified hereby that the holder has made a declaration that he will preserve the secrecy of correspondence.

Signature of examining officer [Signature]

The holder of this Certificate is therefore authorised to act as radio-telephone operator on board a British ship equipped with a radiotelephone installation of which the power of the carrier wave in the aerial does not exceed 50 watts.

Y.C. Crocker for the Postmaster General, G.P.O., London.

**3 JUL 1939** Date.

Signature of holder [Signature]

Date of Birth 12 June 1886 Place of Birth Sutton, Surrey

TELEPHONE MANSION HOUSE 1905. CABLES : MARCUSEOR, LONDON.  
EXPERIMENTAL STATION (G2NMJ) AT SONNING, BERKS.  
TELEPHONE : SONNING 2141.

**GERALD MARCUSE.**

(PART-TIME) PRESIDENT RADIO SOCIETY OF ST. BRITAIN (INC.)  
1ST DISTRICT, INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION.

36, MARK LANE.  
LONDON, E.C.3.  
SONNING,  
17/5/40

Mr E. Handcocks  
Overham, Reading.

Dear OM,  
I have at last heard from HQ and herewith beg to enclose official secrecy form which please sign and return to me, and I will get HQ to send you full dope, then I propose to call a meeting of Butler White and yourself in Reading and we can then decide the best way to tackle this matter.  
In the meantime 73sOM.  
Yrs,  
[Signature]

CODES USED:  
A.B.C. & SP EDITIONS.  
LEBENS STRASBURG.  
WEIGERS BLITZ.  
(2005 EDITION)  
PRIVATE.

**E. Marcuse**  
NEW ADDRESS: 36 MARK LANE, E.C.3.  
NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER: MANSION HOUSE 1905.  
37 Great South Street  
London, E.C.3. 19

Sonning.  
Feb. 26th. 1941

Dear OM,  
Item 2. **INVASION PLAN.**

In the event of invasion, the present system of watching will continue as follows:

- a) General watch covering 24 hours as near as possible
- b) Special watch for groups

with regard to (a) general watch should be restricted to the following frequencies; 0800/1700 5,5 to 9 m.cs., 1700-0800 3-6, 5 m.cs..

All VIs should be asked to request their employers to free them in the event of invasion so that they can put in full time watch keeping, thus ensuring that there is an every full coverage all over the country.

Headquarters are very anxious to have a record as soon as possible, the fullest information with regard to any communication receivers suitable for our work, know to be in this area and not being used, I should be glad of your cooperation in this matter, providing me with the fullest information of any receivers you may know of that are lying idle.

Important traffic is being transmitted on the following frequencies during the times given.

5014 kc/s. Measured frequency
5042
3380
4500

At 1400-- 2200 hours G.M.T.

[Signature]  
Group Leader R3S Berks.

TO ALL V.I.s.

GENERAL INSTRUCTION No.11.

In the event of invasion V.I.s. should immediately burn all papers which could in any way connect them with R.S.S. or the War Office, or any activity in the war - particularly should their Passes be burnt.

All preparations for this destruction by burning should be made now and the number of documents kept should be reduced to the absolute minimum.

P.S.S.  
19th March 1941.  
s./m.v.g.

[Signature]  
1/2  
CONTROLLER R.S.S.

These letters are examples of the instructions sent to VIs.

In 1942 the London business premises of Marcuse were destroyed during an air raid and so he decided to retire. It is possible that he then joined the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserves but a search of records did not confirm this.

Also in 1942 his son David was born in Reading.

**Item reference HW 15/28**

New York: Covernames ROMAN, ABRAM and MAKSIM and personal names Hans HIRSCHFELD, Siegfried AUFHAEUSER and MARCUSE.

Jump to: [Summary](#)

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**Ordering and viewing options >**

**Context**

- [HW](#) Records created and inherited by Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)
  - ▶ [Division within HW](#) General records of the Government Code and Cypher School
  - ▶ [HW 15](#) Government Code and Cypher School and Government Communications Headquarters: Venona Project: Records
    - ▶ MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY (MGB) TRAFFIC
    - ▶ [HW 15/28](#) Ministry of State Security (MGB) traffic

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**Record Summary**

<b>Scope and content</b>	New York: Covernames ROMAN, ABRAM and MAKSIM and personal names Hans HIRSCHFELD, Siegfried AUFHAEUSER and MARCUSE.
<b>Covering dates</b>	1945 Jan 11
<b>Held by</b>	The National Archives, Kew
<b>Former reference (Department)</b>	48
<b>Legal status</b>	Public Record(s)

In 1944, Gerald and his family left Reading and moved to Tidewaters, Bosham, Sussex. This is confirmed by the non appearance of G2NM in the attendance records of the Reading Amateur Radio Club for the years 1944, 1945, and 1946.

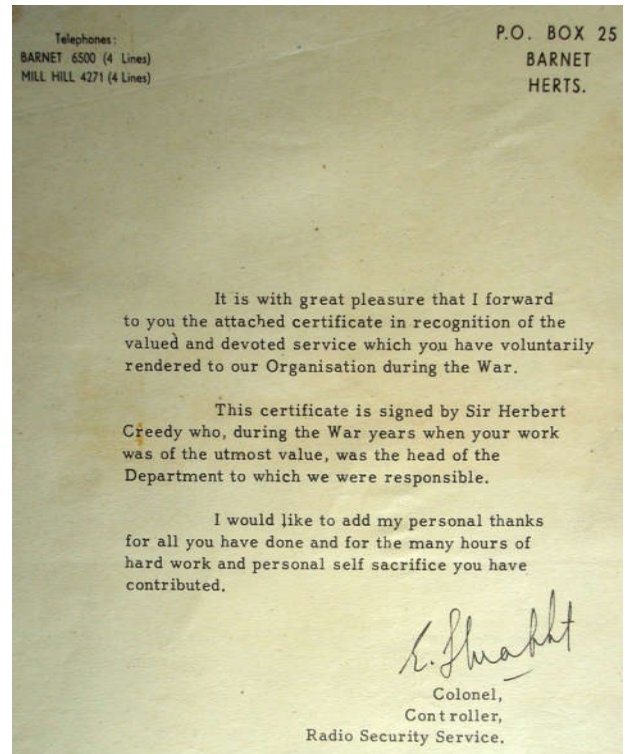
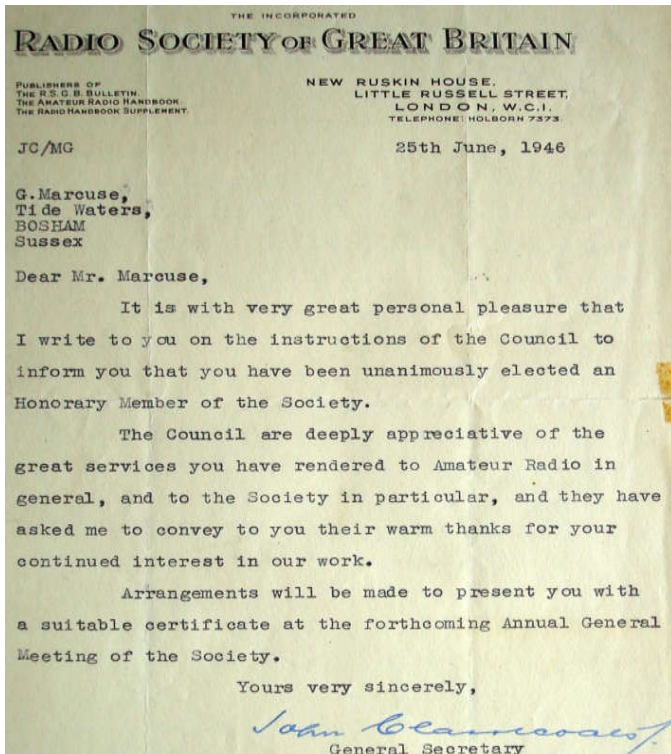
It has been suggested that he was involved in secret government work and the statement that, in 1945, Marcuse had the cover name of MAKSIM only adds to the confusion.

Soon after the war he set to work to organise a fire brigade in the village and he was station officer for some years.

Sailing was one of his pastimes and he bought a sea-going craft which he named IRENE II. Unfortunately this had to be sold in 1956 due to his ill-health.

In 1946 he was made an Honorary Member of the RSGB

In 1949 he was elected as a representative for Bosham on the council.







GERALD MARCUSE IN THE SHACK AT TIDEWATERS, BOSHAM IN 1960



In the 1950s Gerry experimented with mobile working and this photo, taken at Longleat, Warminster in 1960, shows G5VS, with his wife Milli, and Irene standing next to G2NM on the right.



- Twenty -

(With Jim and Ina Procter, and David  
Christmas 1960)

It's a long way back to 1927 when I thrilled the listeners in Australia with Empire broadcasting, and here we are with a nice whisky and gin & it and the company of Jim, Ina, Irene and in front of a log fire with David in the background listening to "This is My Life".

My life since 1919 has been radio and the biggest kick I get out of my old age is talking to my old friends up and down the country. Thinking back I say now, and repeat it, that the finest thrill of my life is amateur radio and talking to all the old friends up and down the world. There are many new ones who have joined us and I am sure they are all as thrilled as I am. With present day apparatus it is easy. When I started we had to make everything ourselves but now you may buy the finest communication receivers, rotary beams, transmitters and everything else - no need to bother yourself - write it all on a piece of paper and send it in and "Bob's your uncle". We have just installed a rotary beam with a rotating mechanism and you get north, south, east and west, and you can talk to the world and it is quite a thrill still, but not the thrill it was in 1924/25/26/27 when we had to make everything ourselves. We got great assistance from the manufacturers, in particular the Mullard Valve Radio Company, who supplied us with the necessary valves. The transatlantic boys, 2KF, 2 OD, 5RV - there were about half-a-dozen of us on the air then, and all striving to maintain communication with 12,000 miles - down under. We did it with all home-made gear and now you hear people calling CQ from the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and the whole world, and when they are calling they say what their gear is. It is always commercial. Nobody builds their own set today, whereas in the good old days of 1924/25/26/27 we made everything ourselves. You could not buy anything and we were lucky if we got a valve which would stand up to what were then called high frequencies. We originally started on 180 metre spark, then

TRANSCRIPT OF THE TAPED INTERVIEW  
RECORDED IN THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD OF  
1960

These two pages give a simple summary of the  
remaining 31 pages of the transcript.

we went to 1000 metres CW and phone. We were chased off this wave by the Post Office and went to 440 metres. We were then chased off by the B.B.C. and then the Post Office wrote me a letter when I was a big noise in the R.S.G.B. and said I could have all the wavelengths below 200 metres which were no use commercially. We showed them what to do and now the whole world is on short wave. I have a letter somewhere from the Chief Engineer at Rugby. He said "My old 6000 metre transmitter will be going long after you fellows on 200 and below have finished", the reverse is the case. The best frequency is about 8 Mc/s, but of course ITV have got down to centimetric stuff, but they have not got the ranges that we have. They don't want the range, but I think the finest contribution today to the scientific world of radio is the Eurovision. I think, to sit in ones room in the armchair with a drink and a smoke, and look at Eurovision from Czechoslovakia or wherever it is, is the finest thing that has ever happened and for me in my old age it certainly is a great thrill and a great consolation, and I think we - all the old timers and early enthusiasts - have contributed and helped towards these ends, and I am sure we shall, eventually, not only have colour television but transatlantic programmes on TV, although they may not be all we desire, but I still say the Eurovision is the finest contribution to radio that has ever been made.

And with that I will wish you all a very Happy New Year, God Bless you, and many years of happy listening and looking. This is ZNM - the old timer - signing off. And wishing you all the best.

Cheerio.



Eugen Gerald Marcuse died suddenly on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1961 aged 74 years. He had been working 80 metre phone the day before.

His funeral took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> April at Bosham and afterwards at Brighton Crematorium.

## Mr. Marcuse Made Radio History

**MR. EUGEN GERALD MARCUSE**, who made history as the pioneer of the B.B.C's Empire broadcasting service, died at his Bosham home last week, aged 74.

He was originally trained as an engineer, specializing in electrical equipment, but gave up his work to take over the family business of corn and seed importers in London, when his father, Mr. Eugen Marcuse, retired.

All his spare time was devoted to experimenting in radio transmission, and he made world history by being the first to establish radio communication with Australia and New Zealand.

He set up his own transmitting station in his house at Caterham, and with the help of his family and friends broadcast programmes regularly several times a week overseas.

One of his proudest possessions was a large book of Press cuttings, telegrams, and letters which told the tale of his success in this new field of world communication.

He was made President of the Radio Society of Great Britain in recognition of his invaluable services to radio communications and he also founded the Old Timers' Association.

Mr. Marcuse and his wife first came to live at Tideater, Bosham, in 1944 and soon after the war ended he set to work to start a fire brigade in the village.

He was Station Officer for some years.

In 1949 he was elected as Bosham's representative on the County Council.

In spite of the fact that he was ill for some time before his death one of his last jobs was to advise and help with the installation of special telecommunication equipment in Chichester's ambulances.

One of his hobbies was yachting, but in 1956 arthritis compelled him to sell his yacht, Eirene II, and confine himself to fishing in the harbour from a launch. So he interested himself in mobile transmitters, fitting one to his car and establishing contact with his many friends in the country as he drove along the Sussex lanes

or waited for his wife while she shopped.

Mr. Marcuse served in the Lincolnshire Regiment during World War I, and did special work of a secret nature during World War II.

He is survived by his wife and a son, Mr. David Marcuse.

The funeral service took place on Monday at Bosham Parish Church.

The coffin was escorted to the church by Division Fire Officer R. C. Kean, Sub-Officer B. Clutterbuck, and four members of Bosham Fire Brigade, Firemen, J. and G. Strange, J. Bradford, and P. Follett.

They were followed by two amateur radio operators, Mr. Victor Simms and Mr. Frank Briggs, carrying a wreath representing the badges of the Radio Society of Great Britain and the Old Timers' Association.

The family mourners were. — The widow, Mr. David Marcuse (son), who was accompanied by his fiancée, Miss Jennifer Stokes and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Rose (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Dr. and Mrs. John French (nephew and niece), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Petersen (nephew and niece), Miss Angela Rose (niece), Mrs. Leila Marcuse (sister-in-law), Miss Susan Marcuse (niece), and Douglas Marcuse (nephew).

Cremation took place at Brighton.

After Gerald's death Irene donated many documents and much of his equipment to the Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre in West Sussex.



Remember a couple of months ago we ran a photograph of the bench at Bosham Church which has an inscription to Gerald Marcuse, G2NM. At the time we asked if anyone knew the origin of the bench. Well, as many of you rushed to point out, the answer lies in the July and August 1962 issues of Radio Communication. Much as we'd love to, we don't have nearly enough time to sit mulling through back editions of RadCom so we'd temporarily forgotten that the answer was staring us in the face, so to speak! However, for the benefit of the newer members of the Society, here's a brief account of the history of the seat, sent in by Irene Marwood (formerly Marcuse).

"Gerald Marcuse died in 1961 and the memorial seat, paid for by donations from RSGB and RAOTA (Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association) members, was presented to Bosham Parish Council at a ceremony on 21 July 1962 by John Claricoats, G6CL the Founder Secretary of RAOTA. The seat was made by Listers, an engineering firm in Dursley, Gloucestershire, where my son David then worked. The seat was maintained by myself and my present husband, Geoffrey Marwood, until December 1983 when we moved away from Tidewaters, Bosham, where G2NM carried out his later radio work. The responsibility for the seat was taken over, very kindly, by the Chichester & District ARC. It is taken away each winter for re-varnishing and is replaced in the spring. There is also a sundial in Bosham Churchyard in memory of

G2NM which was presented by myself and my son David and a commemorative plaque on a house called 'Combe Dingle' in Caterham where G2NM carried out the first Empire Broadcasting and his important pioneering work. In 1983, I presented many early documents regarding G2NM's work, and much of his equipment to the Radio Section of the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum, near Arundel, Sussex. The museum has constructed a mock-up of Gerald's shack with the equipment (which is on permanent loan) and each year, in September, a special event is run in his honour using, with special permission, the callsign G2NM."

In the September 1988 issue of Radcom, Irene Marwood (formerly Marcuse) explained the history of the bench at Bosham harbour.



DAVID MARCUSE ( SON ) 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 1962 IRENE MARCUSE



SUNDIAL IN BOSHAM CHURCHYARD





In 1983 Irene and her second husband, Geoffrey Marwood moved away from Tidewaters. In 1988 I visited Irene and her husband with Maurie Handcocks G5HN. Maurie and Gerald became good friends in the early 1930's when they were two of the founding members of the Reading Amateur Radio Club in 1934.

This photo of Tidewaters taken in 1988 shows the addition of the upper roof area that was added after 1983.

After G2NM died Irene gave G5HN this valve, which was used in the Empire Broadcasts, and also his black beret.



MAURIE HANDCOCKS AND IRENE MARWOOD



VALVE AND BERET NOW AT AMBERELY MUSEUM





COOMBE DINGLE CATERHAM, SURREY IN 2014. NOW A NURSING HOME



Photos John Chapman G4FIT