

Bethany Station Opens National VOA School of Broadcasting

It is 2 AM at Bethany Station when a call came through. Two hours later a broadcast engineer, specially trained to operate high power transmitters, was on a plane headed for Montreal to connect with a flight to London.

Beginning in 1945 Bethany Station opened a school to train specially selected broadcast engineers for worldwide deployment to VOA facilities. The operation was funded by the Office of War Information, OWI.

Staffed by six Crosley engineers, the two-week course included a daily three-hour lecture on transmitter theory, receiver theory, antenna design and wave propagation.

The remaining five hours each day was hands on field training operating the station's six high power transmitters.

OWI provided additional lectures about government broadcasting operations.

Living conditions were basic Army style with bunk beds in the station dormitory, assisting in the kitchen, and making their own bed in addition to policing the living quarters.

Preparations for deployment included 13 injections of scrums to combat diseases such as typhus, cholera, yellow fever and tetanus.

Source: [NBC Transmitter Publication August 1945](#)