

Tuner's Topics

Directional Antennas

Editor's Note: SP4 Tuner Tropo is at school right now. While he's away, WO1 Wanda Wig Wag will be writing "Tuner's Topics."

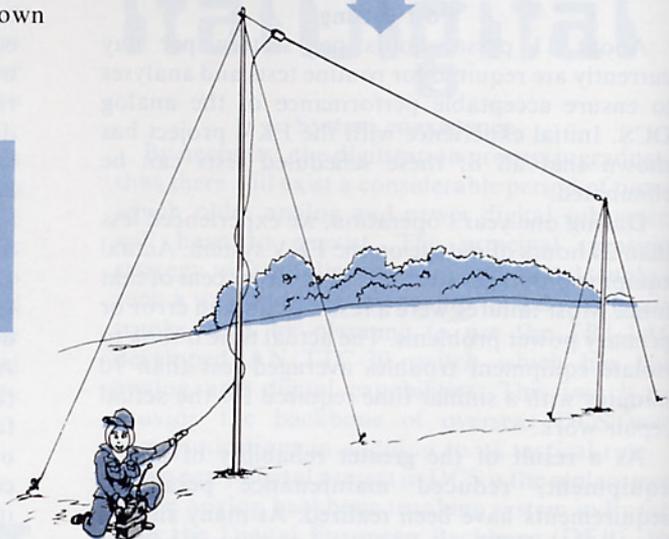
by WO1 Wanda Wig Wag

In the last issue, Tuner talked about the metric system. To illustrate what he meant about linear distances, he compared his height to that of an antenna.

Knowing that it's a little hard to get up in the air with the metric system, I thought a brief examination of antennas would be informative. There are 3 kinds of antennas and each has its own advantages and disadvantages.

The second kind of antenna is the bidirectional or doublet antenna. This antenna allows you to communicate with two or more stations in opposite directions. However, your antenna must be parallel with those of the receiving stations. And, to avoid enemy detection, your apparatus should be set up at a 90 degree angle to that of the enemy.

The first kind is called omnidirectional (*omni* means 'all') and can be used for communications in any direction. It is also called a whip antenna. Its major disadvantage is that the enemy can detect you as easily as you can locate a friendly receiver.



The third kind of antenna is the uni-directional or terminated long-wire variety. One of the major advantages to this kind of antenna is its disadvantage to the enemy: that is, because it is most effective for communicating in one direction, it is not easily detected.

