

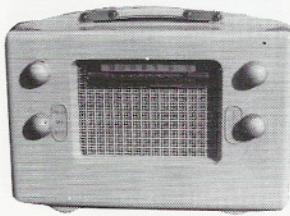
Ariel 5-valve AC/Battery 1950.



Ariel 5-valve AC/Battery 1951. Made by Webb's Radio Ltd.



Ultimate model RAW, 5-valve AC/Battery 1952.



Bell model 6P7, 6-valve AC/DC/Battery 1955. An example of the so-called '3-way' portable.

Ltd were responsible for the production of the 'Radiomobile' car radios which were marketed in New Zealand by HMV.

With the advent of transistorised models from 1960 onwards all existing local manufacturers, with the exception of Allied Industries Ltd, became involved in their manufacture.

### KITSETS

In addition to making complete radios some manufacturers offered them in kitset form for assembly by home constructors. The boom period for this activity occurred in the years between 1934 and 1940. Amongst N.Z. manufacturers Radio Corp's 'Exelrad' kits were undoubtedly the biggest sellers, runners-up being Johns Ltd and the Electric Lamphouse. However, the N.Z. kits faced fierce competition from the Australian-made products of such firms as Lekmek, Radiokes and

RCS.

After the war there was a brief revival of interest in kitset construction, particularly in the case of portable models. The Electric Lamphouse continued to cater for the kitset market, with other firms such as SOS Radio and Webb's Radio also specialising in this area. By the late 1950s, however, interest in kitset construction had dwindled to almost zero.

### NEW ZEALAND PORTABLES

Before 1939 all portable radios seen in this country, apart from a few home-made ones, were of overseas origin as no N.Z. manufacturers were yet making this class of receiver. Although a few imported sets appeared as early as 1927, it was not until the late 1930s that portables made much impression on the local scene. Between 1936 and 1939 such well-known British makes as Ekco, HMV, Lissen, Spencer and Vidor were imported.

The first New Zealand-made portables were of the so-called 'all-dry' variety, one of the earliest being made by Radio Ltd in 1939. During the next two years other firms such as Collier & Beale, Radio Corp. and Wellmade also entered the field. With the production of their model FB in 1941 Radio Ltd became the first N.Z. manufacturer to market a combination AC/Battery set.

Beginning in 1947-48, most existing firms commenced to manufacture 'two-way' portables and in some cases continued production of this type of set until the late 1950s. By 1955 three-way AC/DC/Battery models had arrived, though certain firms, notably Radio Ltd, wisely refrained from producing such troublesome 'hot boxes'. While the elimination of the power transformer made these sets marginally lighter to carry and cheaper to produce, the change brought with it decreased reliability. At least one manufacturer is known to have reverted to the earlier two-way design as a result of the trouble encountered.

As in other countries, the advent of transistorised receivers sounded the death knell of valve-operated portables and by the late 1950s production had entirely ceased.