

and marketed. The experience gained, and the continuous engineering on noise suppression in automobiles for good radio reception resulted in a breakthrough, just before the war interrupted domestic radio production. This became the foundation for a great production feat of the late 40's and early 50's.

The wide and varied experience of engineering and production techniques made possible the considerable war production of radio and electronic devices for all branches of the armed forces, in the period 1941 - 1946. Bear in mind, however, that the radio production lines had permitted almost a stable workforce in the 1930's, a time of deep depression, with very few layoffs. While this business was not as profitable as the Alemite line, it did help with overheads and maintaining skilled workers, many of whom advanced to foremen and technicians when the number of employees had to be doubled, then trebled and quadrupled before the war was over.

In 1941, Mr. C.D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply issued a "stop" order-in-council on all commercial radios and ancillary equipment; all radio manufacturers were directed to get into immediate war material. In the war years, Stewart-Warner Canada threw its considerable experience and resources into radio/electronic war production units. One of the first projects was taking over a large Asdic unit production, utilizing and modifying tooling which another company had unsuccessfully tried to use to turn out production runs of the much-needed gear for the Navy. Stewart-Warner Canada had units flowing to the needed areas within three months. Many top-secret development followed with production of transponders for the Air Force and field sets for the Army, radio and communication equipment for aircraft and further Asdics for the Navy. At the same time, the plant facilities were being strained in making other war models for the forces of the electromechanical sophisticated types.

By the end of 1946, all war production at Belleville was wound up and rapid changeover made in order to manufacture radios for civilian needs. In the latter part of that year, Stewart-Warner Canada set-up a satellite assembly operation at Tweed where over a hundred employees worked. Over the next two years, they turned out and sold over 30,000 of the excellent mantel-type mini-set known as the "Baby Grand". This set had a plastic cabinet, rounded at the corners, of pleasing design and