

May 21, 1941

Mr. R. M. Bowie
Hygrade Sylvania Corporation
Emporium, Pennsylvania

Dear Bob:

An examination of my correspondence brings me to the realization that I have not heard from you since some time last fall. You will be interested to know that our computing machine project has made great strides since that time. I have had two very excellent men assisting me in the construction, and we expect to have the entire structure operating during the summer or soon thereafter.

We still have not filled the thyrotron need about which I wrote you. However, we have found that the 2A4G well fills our need when used in a somewhat different way. We employ two of them in parallel in the primary of a transformer, and induce a high voltage transient in the secondary by allowing them to fire at a specified point on the input AC cycle. We allow each to pass a peak current of about 1 ampere for a very brief and interrupted interval, after which the tube is given a rest period. We were afraid that the high peak current would prove injurious, but have given a pair of tubes a life test corresponding to many years of actual service under these conditions, without appreciable diminution of function.

Please ask your sales office to give me a quotation on seventy-five of these 2A4G thyrotrons.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff
Assoc. Prof. Math. and Physics

JVA:jh

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