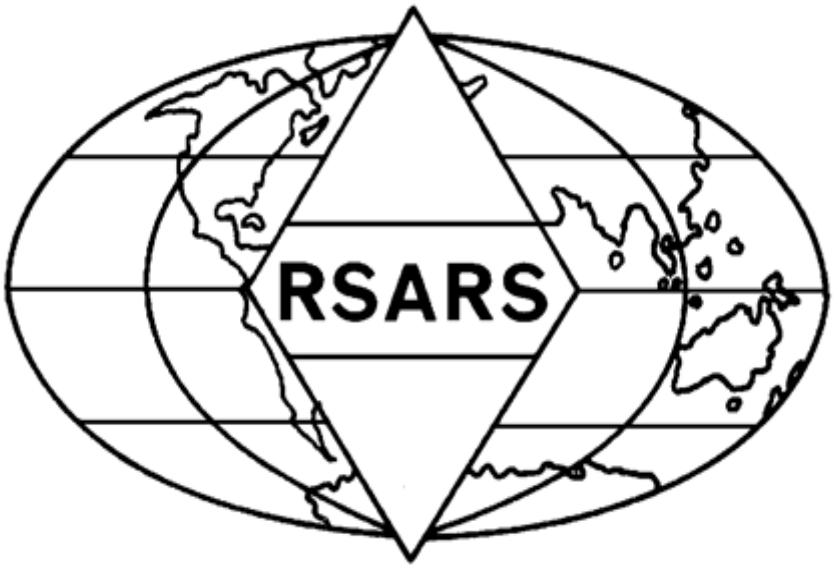
MERCURY



NUMBER 64 NOVEMBER 1979

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NOVEMBER 1979

EDITORIAL MERCURY

INTERDEPENDENCE.

Throughout life, whether in a professional or amateur capacity, we are all dependent upon someone else in some way or another. It may be that we depend upon a technical advisor, the Citizens Advice Bureau, or even the Tea Lady at work. This interdependency also applies within our Society - I depend upon the General Secretary to get "Mercury" out to members, he, in turn, depends upon the Station Manger to keep the wheels turning at G4RS. We all depend upon the Treasurer to keep us in the black and many of as depend upon the QSL Bureau Manager to collect and forward those QSLs. Most of all, perhaps, "Mercury" depends upon ALL members. A few issues ago I mentioned something about scraping the bottom of the barrel - well, I can assure all readers that the bottom of the barrel is in quite good condition, having scraped most of it. At the moment I have only a couple of articles for the next edition, so - can I please depend on members for a few contributions?. You don't have to be a professional author, you don't have to be highly technical, you don't even have to type your article, as long as it is legible and has not been published under your name elsewhere.

Whilst talking of dependency, it was interesting to see the BBC programme "The Secret Listeners" which showed the way that, during WW II, this country depended on its radio amateurs to a very high technical degree. Let as peruse our hobby in such a way that, should the need ever arise, this country could again depend upon the amateur radio population as it did in the past.

73

Christmas Greetings
and every good wish for
the New Year

As we reach that time of the year when we all look forward to Christmas and the following New Year, The President, Council and all Officers of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society take this opportunity of wishing all members, their families and friends the compliments of the forthcoming Festive Season and also hope that the forthcoming year will be a peaceful, happy and healthy one.

It was felt appropriate to reproduce the Christmas card which was designed by Corporal Hegarty of The Army Apprentices College at Harrogate a few years ago and acknowledgements are hereby made to the A.A.C. for its use here,

May we also take this opportunity of hoping that the outcome of the present World Administrative Radio Conference will be beneficial to all concerned and, in particular, to the amateur fraternity.

So, to all radio amateurs and Short Wave Listeners everywhere -

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

P-1154 - AGAIN.

Our hero just had to get the message to Catterick. No time to put it through the Cipher Office so it had to be in simple code that even RSARS HQ could break. The result was, 1HJ93 B5I1H 51BM1 OIH5G K9H54 6EHC5 H3KHO. "That should shift them" he thought as he moved the letters on his desk to one side "If they can figure it out before the letters arrive so much the better". Can you figure out the message? If so, drop a line to the Editor.

HEARD ON THE AIR.

(During a QSO between G3DPS and a station that shall be G3ST-less). "Before the First World War whilst serving with the Westminster Yeomanry riding instruction was given near the New Horticultural Hall on horses loaned by the London Bus Companies. On the command to move forward each rider had to say "Ding Ding" to his horse with a single "Ding" to halt" (I still think I'm having my leg pulled - Ed.!).

OPEN MARKET.

(Where RSARS members (and their friends) can dispose of equipment, find that bit they have been looking for, for so long, ask for information. etc., etc. at no charge).

Bill Bevan, G3DBU, is working on a Noise Bridge project and is urgently seeking a 250 Ohms CARBON potentiometer. Write W.T.E. Bevan, G3DBU, 10 Hilltop Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 3BZ.

Alan F. Young, G3YBP/RSARS 0607, Craigside, Mortehoe, Woolacombe, Devon, has an AR88D for sale. The set has been fully re-aligned and gives good reception on all bands. Alan is looking for £50 for the set but mentions "this figure would include other surplus pieces of electronic and communication gear".

John Brown, G3EUR/RSARS 0403, 74 Humber Avenue, South Ockenden, Essex, RM15 5JN has a B40 Receiver which has been fitted with miniature valves and was working OK, but old rubber wiring perished, also some tatty mods by previous owner(s) hence RX is now QRT. Contains fine turret, dial. etc., and could be of use as spares for a B40. Could be re-wired. £10 or Part exchange.

Also qty. 2 WS B44 Mk.II with Workshop Manual. This is a TX/RX crystal controlled from 60 to 95 MHz. 12V DC, 14 Valves, 3 Watts A.M. Originally bought for modding to 70 MHz but untested and unmodded. £5 each.

Also a Marconi CR100 General Coverage Receiver, 0·55 - 30 MHz. Vintage. Went fine until transformer went up in smoke!. Fine turret, etc., and would warrant restoration by an enthusiast with more spare time than John has. £2.

Heathkit Analogue computer, type EC-1U. Working. 19" rack chassis in cabinet with lid. Plug in R, C patch leads and manual. £25.

WANTED by G3EUR (address above) : Manual for BC611 U.S.A. Handie-Talkie. Will buy or borrow. Also valves for same, VT171, VT172. VT173, VT174 (Equals 1T4, 1R5, 1S5 and 3S4). John also requires 6SN7's, 6J5's and 6V6's (Metal or GT). John offers cash or trade-ins for these valves. John also mentions that he has a 35 years collection of "bits". Far too many to list. He would welcome correspondence from collectors/restorers of old sets with a view to swapping or selling bits or pieces that may be needed for restoration purposes. (John asks about the cost of inserting the above entry. There is no charge to members as this is a member service. Please pass your Sales/Wants/Queries/Etc to the Editor or Gen. Sec.).

From : Alan F. Young, G3YBP/RSARS 0607, Craigside, Mortehoe, Woolacombe, Devon, comes a letter saying "Our new home overlooks Woolacombe Bay and is a mere stone's throw from the beach. We are a small family hotel and one building a good reputation with our home cooking and magnificent views from the bedrooms. Should any members wish to take a spot of leave this way, please give us a ring for prices, etc. The number is WOOLACACOMBE (027187) 480. We can offer SPECIAL RATES TO RSARS MEMBERS during the more quiet periods and will be open for most of the year. During the Off-peak times we would consider short-break stays and/or mid-week bookings". Please contact Alan direct (and please mention RSARS/Mercury).

For disposal - a Europa II, in good condition, recently brought up to spec. with new P.A. fitted. Start talking at £30 to Ron Foot, G4BKU, 10 Hughenden Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 8SF.

G3EKL has the following for disposal - TRIO 2 metre xtals for S0(S24) and R7 - £2 a pair. (Or, if you'd rather - HC 25U at 12·0979. 12·1333. 44·966 and 45·025).

DONATIONS.

We thank the following members for their kind thoughts and generous donations to Society funds: 0073 - G3PPK, 0213 - NL, 0247 - G5GH, 0403 - G3EUR, 1204 - VS6GY, 1296 - G4FYX and 0767 - VU2MD.

UZU IN AMMELAND.

By ?????.

(The origin of the following is unknown but it reached your Editor by a variety of routes including G3ZFZ and G3EKL. Read it VERY carefully - it needs it!!. - Ed.).

AMMES	: Fearsome inhabitants of Ammeland.
JAITS	: Mysterious primitive tribe from the Dark Zone. Serfs of the Klarsays (q.v.).
KLARSAYS	: A dominant body of advanced beings, considered by some to be intellectually superior to the Jaits.
RIPITA	: God to all Jaits and some Klarsays.
LORJIC	: The all-seeing mind of Ripita.
JEETUUS & JEETHRIS	: Elders of the tribe of Klarsays.
JEEFAWS	: Young, newly blooded warriors of the Klarsays Tribe.
MAWSE	: Supreme God of the Klarsays.
KUSOS	: Conversations, futile and unintelligible to the Aliens between individual Ammes. Jaits speak in Phoney, Klarsays either in Phoney or in the monotonous tongue of their God Mawse. Kusos consist largely of technicalities interspersed with such phrases as "Yewtherejim", "Aitchayen, Seayafurtherdahnthelog" and "Krisitzblownup".
EFFEM, AYEM & ESESBEE	: Amme dialects of the language Phoney.
KAY	: Erotic slave-girl of Ripita. Often violated by Jammas.
O'MOFFIS	: Celtic patron saint of all Ammes.
JAMMAS	: An alien group of single cell creatures intent on bringing about the downfall of Ripita. Largely ignored by O'Moffis but hunted down by Jaits and Klarsays alike.
NAYBERS	: Hostile people dwelling adjacent to Ammeland. They pray nightly to their one-eyed God, Gogulboks.
EYEWUNZ	: Latin tribe of Ammes. Their language is Splatta - a dialect of Phoney.
SEEK YOU	: Mating call of the Ammes. Uttered in dreary monotone and repeated non-stop for up to five minutes.
KUAREZD	: A reply to the mating call "Seek you".
ENEFDEE	: Midsummer festival of the God Mawse, celebrated by Ammes in a 24-hour open-air orgy of meaningless Kusos. Number-swapping is believed to take place.
SHAX	: Simple dwelling place of the Ammes. Often decorated with colourful Queue Esselles.
QUEUE ESSELLES	: Hunting trophies much prized by Ammes. Until recently distributed by the respected Elder Tuemeye or bartered in exchange for Eyearsees.

LOCAL CATTERICK MEETING - NOSTERFIELD 19th SEPTEMBER 1979. RAY/G3EKL.

Despite an unexpected change in the Regimental Wives Club evening from the second to the third Wednesday of the month; despite pressing duties for two other regulars, and a dose of (wait for it!) Shingles for another unfortunate key-happy character, the September Get-together mustered four XYI,'s and eight licensed males - I must learn to differentiate between G3JZP and licensed males!!!. A few "Mercurys" ago I listed G3JZP and XYL, - G3EJF was surprised!!!.

Imagine my surprise when at about a quarter to ten a figure appeared at the bar with a pint in his hand - Member No. 1369, G8NTJ. Kevin had seen my "All Members" letter with "Mercury" No. 63 and, having given driving as one of his hobbies (see "Welcome" in "Mercury" 11/78, page 22), decided to come up and find out just how good Theakstons beer really was. In the event he took to Tartan, perhaps concerned at blowing a strange brew into a Midlands Breathalyser bag!!. Kevin drove up from the south of Nottingham and then back to Cannock. (I have been persuaded to produce a "Beat this spot - How far did you travel?" momento which stands at 250 miles at present). The evening quickly passed and we went our various ways rejoicing.

One strange thing happened - if you look at a map, Nosterfield is 140 ft A.S.L. and miles from anywhere, yet as members departed into the dark various light hearted 2 Metre mobiles could be heard calling each other and offering the pros and cons of different ways home and where to find an open Fish and Chippery when a blasting signal challenged the Calling Channel with "It's alright for you lot - some of us have to work for a living". Stunned silence followed by a querulous "QRZ from G3EKL?". "This is G3OPW/M". "Where's the connection?" you may well be wondering. G3OPW, John, was welcomed into the society in the same edition of "Mercury" as G8NTJ. He lives in the Midlands, but works in GM-land and commutes frequently to and fro. Had he managed to disengage a few hours earlier that day he would have called in at Nosterfield and that would have given me some head-scratching for "How far did you travel?".

73 Ray.

OLD TIMERS SECTION.

(An extract from a letter from Ken, G4EEC, makes interesting reading..... Ed.).

"I'm toying with the idea of sending you some recollections of the very early days with Service radio equipment. (Please do, Ken, such items are always welcome - Ed.) In 1922, with the 1st Cavalry Division Signals (Australian Military Forces) we used the old Pack Set. It weighed a ton!. The AR88 is a featherweight compared with the Pack Set. You may have seen one; it had a Douglas twin-opposed motor-bike engine on one side of the pack saddle and an Alternator/Rotary Gap on the other. The rest of the gear was in two big boxes each weighing about ½cwt also plus pipe masts and earth mats of copper gauze. I punched the key on one of these and suppose there are not many left who did so. We graduated in about 1924 to another (five man) pack set using 6v storage batteries. The TX had a single Marconi 'R' valve and the RX was an 0-V-1 using two 'R' valves. I have photographs of some of my Troop erecting and using this rig but can't recall the Type No.!. Such is old age!" (Tnx, Ken. Can any member recall the type of set in question?" - Ed.).

DID YOU KNOW???.

What happened to the First Fourth Norfolk Regiment in World War I? It is reported that the entire Regiment was at Gallipoli and was marching up Hill 60 at Suvla Bay to reinforce Allied troops. The direction they took necessitated marching through a low-lying cloud, from which they never emerged. After the War Great Britain formally asked for the return of the 1/4 Norfolk prisoners. Turkey stated that they had no such prisoners, had never contacted the Regiment concerned and, indeed, did not know that the Regiment was at the Dardenelles. The Regiment was officially posted "Missing".

MEMBERS - BEWARE!!.

(Approximately a year ago a simple everyday action started to develop into a rather costly and protracted event. It all started when Bill, G3DBU, purchased a piece of amateur radio gear from South Midlands Communications Ltd. The equipment was a YC-601-B Counter. Serial number 8F010459. and Bill hastens to add that S.M.C. were, in his opinion, in no way to blame for the final outcome. The equipment duly arrived at Harrogate but, on setting up, it was found to be slightly below par. S.M.C. were informed..... Now read on..... Ed.).

A letter, dated 22nd November 1978, was received from S.M.C. signed by P. Eeles, the Service Manager of S.M.C. "The trouble you are having seems to be due to slightly different V.F.O. levels and, although this is normal, the YC601B could be low sensitivity, so please return it to Totton as this seems the best place to start with this fault".

G3DBU packs equipment into original packing and takes same to the Securicor office, East Parade, Harrogate. Parcel is addressed to S.M.C. Ltd., and shows G3DBU's name and address on outside of parcel as 'Sender'. This action took place after Bill had considered the possibility of sending the item by Post for a little over £1 with the provision that he could insure for up to £200 for less than £0-50p. In view of the understood better handling and better security, Bill decided on Securicor. The cost including V.A.T., was £9-18p. AT THIS POINT COMES, PERHAPS, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE WHOLE STORY - The Cash Invoice. Number A 355317, which G3DBU received as a receipt for his £9-18p contained a Note - "The Clients attention is drawn to paragraphs 1 (a) and 4 overleaf regarding the limitation of the Company's liability to £50 per consignment and indemnity by you".

By 12th December 1978, Bill had received no news from S.M.C. and a telephone call was made to Barry Jenkins, G4CZJ, an RSARS member and employee of S.M.C. Barry had no knowledge of the aforesaid parcel arriving at Southampton, but promised to investigate. Bill rang Barry again on 14th December to be told that no parcel had arrived at S.M.C. Bill then went to the Securicor office in Harrogate to check that the parcel had been despatched and was informed that it had actually left on the day it was handed in.

By the 18th December S.M.C. had obviously not forgotten the 'stray' parcel, and Barry contacted Bill to say that the Southampton branch of Securicor had checked and stated that they had NOT received it, and that they suggested Bill enquire at the Harrogate branch.

On the 19th December Bill contacted the Harrogate office who said that they would contact the Southampton office, and inform him of any results.

On the 22nd December 1978 Bill had heard nothing from his local Securicor branch and he telephoned the Manager. He said he would ring Securicor at Southampton and call Bill within 15 to 20 minutes. That was at mid-day. Bill never received a phone call.

Christmas came and went. On the 27th December, Bill again rang Harrogate Securicor but the Manager was not in. The girl who answered the 'phone said she would try and ring back by 2:00pm. No such 'phone call was forthcoming.

However, the next day, Bill did get a 'phone call from the girl at Harrogate Securicor. Southampton were sending confirmation (of what? - Ed.) by post and she would ring me the next day. (The Editor has considerable contact with Securicor during the course of his normal business and the paperwork normally sent by the delivering office is a "P.O.D." or Proof of Delivery, and usually consists of a photocopy of the recipients signature on the vanmans delivery sheet - Ed.).

The next day came, but the promised telephone call didn't.

On the 30th December Bill rang Securicor at Harrogate - No reply.

On the 31st December Bill rang S.M.C. to check if the parcel had arrived - No reply.

MEMBERS - BEWARE!! - Contd.

To further check on possible delayed delivery Bill rang S.M.C. on 2nd January 1979. S.M.C. confirmed that the parcel had not been delivered and again suggested that the matter be taken up with Securicor. Bill wrote to the Area Securicor office at Morley.

The 3rd of January saw a letter delivered to Bill from the Securicor office at Morley, Leeds, stating "Investigations into this matter have been instigated and as soon as we have any information we will contact you again".

Time passed and the 24th January arrived. Nothing had been received from Securicor, so Bill rang Securicor at Morley, Leeds. He was told that a letter was awaited from the Liaison Officer and that Morley would let him know the outcome by post by the end of the week.

Six days later Bill had still heard nothing and 'phoned the Regional Claims Officer at Morley. He was informed that the R.C.O. was not in. Bill left his telephone number with the girl and asked for the required information by 'phone after 5 : 15 p.m. or on Saturday morning. The girl promised that this would be done.

It was noticed in the Daily Telegraph of January 18th 1979 that this paper carried a large advertisement for Securicor stating that business would be more secure and more efficient if entrusted to Securicor. Bill quoted this in his letter and asked, again, where his parcel was. He also queried if such statements were valid under the Trades Description Act in view of his experiences. Even at this stage. Bill maintained a sense of humour - as well as telling Securicor that he was considering doing one or more of the following things - a) sending details to the RSGB so that they may advise their members that Securicor cannot be relied upon to carry valuable radio equipment, and/or writing to his MP to ascertain if the terms of the Trades Description Act had been broken, he mentioned that he might even b) send details to Miss Esther Rantzen of the BBC "because she has such a sweet smile"!.

The 2nd February produced another letter from Securicor. This was from Mrs. P. Richmond, The Regional Claims Officer, Morley Terminal. It stated "Investigations into this matter are now complete and we are forwarding your claim to our National Claims Office, from whom you will be hearing in due course". The letter concludes, "Assuring you of our best attention at all times" (!).

A letter written by Mr. N. Griffiths, Customer Services Department, Securicor, London, was dated 12th February and stated, among other points, "Unfortunately, your parcel got lost somewhere between Harrogate and Southampton. I must draw your attention to our limitation of liability to the sum of £50 for loss of goods. This limit is printed on the face of the Consignment Note which you signed when the parcel was taken in to our Harrogate branch, and I am prepared to offer you the sum of £50 in compensation". In fairness to Securicor, the letter did go on to say "I am also prepared to refund the carriage charges of £9 - 18p and to add a further sum of £10 to pay for the numerous phone calls which you had to make in order to get some action. I am thus offering you £69 - 18 in full settlement of your claim". The original cost of the equipment was £145 - 26.

Bill was not, of course, happy. He approached his solicitors who, in view of the £50 limit clause, advised him to accept the £69 - 18. However, they did write to Securicor and pointed out that under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 such attempts to limit liability are valid only to the extent that they are considered reasonable. The solicitors expressed some doubt that £50 was "reasonable".

The final page in a rather thick file is a copy of a letter from Securicor signed by Mr. N. Griffiths. Customer Services Department stating that they had taken Counsels opinion as to the reasonableness of the £50 limit and that they were satisfied that such a limit is reasonable in the context of the transport industry. In fact the Road Haulage Association have revised their indemnity limit to a pro-rata sum based on £1,200 per ton. This is equivalent to £1 - 20p per Kg and in the case of your client's parcel, would have given an indemnity of £5 - 60p" (!). They go on

MEMBERS - BEWARE!! - Contd.

to say "The principle of insurance for the carriage of goods was considered in Working Paper No. 39 of the Law Commission relating to Exemption Clauses in contracts for the supply services and they concluded that - "Generally speaking it was uneconomic for the supplier to insure, since his liability may vary greatly and he would have to insure up to a maximum of any possible claim. The user of services, on the other hand, knew the limit up to which he had to insure".

From the above it will be seen that Bill is at least £77 out of pocket through entrusting to Securicor and NOT READING THE (NOT-SO-SMALL) PRINT. For less than £2 it would appear that the same item could have been sent by Post AND INSURED UPTO £200 - less than a quarter of Securicor's cost!!!. MEMBERS BEWARE!!.

ADVICE TO FAIR MAIDENS.

Received via VK2NLE.

Verily I say unto you, marry not a Radio Amateur, for he is a strange being, possessed of many devils.

Though he seemeth "touched" he is harmless and thou needest not be wary of him. He speaketh eternally in dits and dahs and he spelleth his words without vowels, and he wieldeth a big stick which he calleth a Slide Rule, and hath but one bible he calleth a Handbook.

He talketh always of QSO's and DX, and without end of his loading coil. He knoweth countries only by prefix; he learneth his geography by Zones and his directions are Great Circle Bearings.

He stayeth up late at nights for reasons known only to him, and thou would not believe his stories if he told ye.

There is one key deep in his heart and that is a Vibroplex, and the love-letters for which he yearneth are "DXCC".

Whilst others prefer swimming and boating, he prefereth to sit inside and work Portable, and he braggeth for ever to those he hath worked.

And when he courteth a damsel, he keepeth a Log Book, and when he maketh a trip he vieweth not the scenery but looketh for antennas.

He picketh his seat in the car by the rig, and careth not of the damsel beside him.

Always he carrieth his books with him, and entertaineth his damsel with Ohm's Law. Verily, although she expecteth chocolates when he calleth, she openeth the package to find filter chokes.

He beholdeth a damsels hand only to measure her fist, and he embraeeth only to test the strength of the muscle.

He cheeketh the vibrations of her heart against WWV and he reckoneth her strength by her ability to raise an antenna.

For though he seeketh to acquire a second op., he attendeth the wedding ceremony only to record it on tape; he goeth on a honeymoon only to visit Radio Clubs, he returneth home only to pound brass.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow this man, for he will need it; there may be no improvement and he will need help forever and ever.

Amen

DID YOU KNOW?

That Aberdare, apart from being the QTH of GW3ASW, was the scene of an unusual event on 9th February 1859 when, during a rainstorm, minnows and smooth-tailed sticklebacks fell with the rain, leaving the ground covered with fish over an area of 240ft x 36ft??????.

(Bit farther up the page, son!)

TWO ELEMENTS ON A BUDGET.

BARRY/DA1BS.

(Much has been written recently about the VK2ABQ Antenna. We thank Barry for a write-up on a practical application. - Ed.).

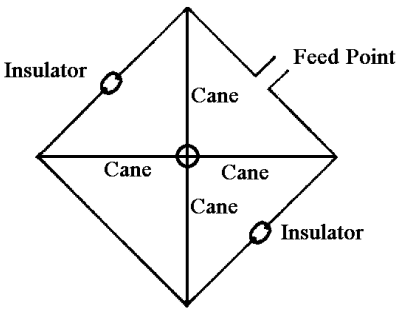
The trapped vertical at DA1BS served its purpose extremely well during winter conditions on the HF bands. However, when summer conditions, especially on 15 Metres, made the going a lot more difficult, more attention was paid to the antenna department. In short, a beam of some sorts was required to turn those "Sorry, Old Man, lost you in QSB" - type QSOs into "Bad QSB but still reading you Q5"

Even with pay rises and Local Overseas Allowances, I don't think I would have been able to persuade my conscience (not to mention the XYL!!) that the outlay of at least £100 could be justified.

So, after a hunt through various magazines and handbooks I found VK2ABQ's antenna described in "Technical Topics" by Pat Hawker.

This is not a technical expose on the antenna nor is any originality claimed, it is merely my way of constructing it and the results obtained with it.

Most people I have spoken to seem to remember the antenna mainly, I think, because of the coat buttons VK2ABQ used in the original design. Quite simply it is a half-wave dipole with reflector, folded back 90 degrees.

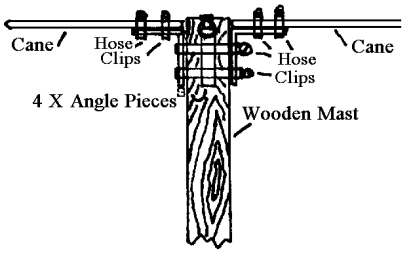


I have constructed the antenna for 15 Metres for three reasons:

1. Longer canes for support are hard to come by.
2. I seldom use 20 Metres
3. 10 Metres can be added if the antenna proves worth while.

For supports I use garden canes and, to keep the metal work at the centre-piece to a minimum, I used a short wooden mast. The less metalwork in the middle, the less trimming from the formula lengths will be necessary.

To attach the canes to the mast I used four pieces of angle iron of the sort sold to strengthen corner joints. Centre piece to mast and canes to mast are secured by using hose clips.



In my case the pieces of angle iron in the centre are only about four inches long and the antenna tends to droop quite a bit, in fact, about a foot at the ends. To rectify this I tied the ends of each cane to the centre support with nylon cord. It does look a little strange but it is quite strong and stable.

A short piece of 75 ohms twin connects the radiator to a 1:1 Balun which is clamped to the mast and the whole thing is fed with 50 ohms. That, basically, is the construction - now for the results

Initial tests were carried out with Bill, G4GJS/PA, who lives about 2 miles away as the crow is wont to go. In order to avoid long periods of key-down whilst testing an El-Bug was used sending very fast dots. In this way, Bill was able to take fairly accurate readings from his S-Meter.

Unfortunately, the only reference antenna I have is the trapped vertical, the tests would have been more accurate if a dipole at the same height had been used. Anyway, I have neither the supports nor the space. Therefore it should be remembered that your results could be quite different from those below.

TWO ELEMENTS ON A BUDGET - Contd.

With the antenna at 15 feet, gain over the vertical is about 6 dB. Front to Back ratio is about 15 - 18 dB and the SWR at 21·000 is 1·1:1 and at 21·450 1·6:1.

Further tests were tried with a G4 station contacted later. He substantiated the above figures and, in fact, improved the front to back ration by about 3 dB.

DX results have, as far as I'm concerned, been quite impressive. Gotaways have been reduced to almost nil. With the vertical lots of calling often resulted in a sore throat, a sore hand or no QSO. With the beam contacts have been made often on one call. In the week following the initial tests with the beam still at 15 feet the following were worked with no effort at all : FG0DDV/FS, ZP, CP, J3, TI, 5N, VE6, VE7 and VE8. The first six were dragged out of the European and American pile-ups with just one call.

For the impecunious I am going to justify the title!. Over here materials are a little more expensive than in the UK but the total cost of the antenna is not more than a couple of weeks supply of coffin nails (cigarettes - Ed!). Garden canes = £2, Hose-clips = £2, Wire = £0 : 90. So the total cost of the beam is less than a fiver.

Incidentally, the rotator used at this end is a very old one obtained second-hand for the 2 Metre beam, which will eventually go on the same mast when the antenna is put up to 30 feet. This has been tried and the rotator has no trouble in coping with the extra load.

So, if you have a little time to spare and not a great deal of QRK, the VK2ABQ is an antenna which is cheap, simple and, above all, a 2 element beam, which although home-brew gives a good account of itself.

One last comment from a G station - "I remember the beam but I have never spoken to anyone with one. I might try it myself".

73 Barry.

(Why don't you "Try it yourself"?. Your editor would be very interested in hearing m anyone who tries a VK2ABQ. Not necessarily a highly technical write-up, just a few lines saying how easy (or difficult) you found the construction, and how good or bad the results were compared with your present antenna. - Ed.).

SHEEPSKIN DEPARTMENT.

The "CQ-SK-AWARD" is issued for working Swedish Club stations (SK call-signs). All bands may be used and the starting date is January 1st 1975. QSL CARDS ARE NOT REQUIRED just a log extract signed by two other radio amateurs stating that the claim represents true log entries. All modes may be used, CW-SSB-AM-RTTY-SSTV, etc., or mixed modes. Repeater contacts count. Each station may be worked ONCE ONLY so each station gives only one point for the Award. Jamboree stations, SSA Bulletin stations and "Special Event" SK call-signs all count. Award can be claimed by licensed amateurs, or SWLs. The Basic Diploma is issued for 20 contacts and stickers issued thereafter. Contacts required (shown as "Contacts" - Swedish Kroner - IRCs) are 20 - 15 - 15, 40 - 5 - 5, 60 -5 -5, 80 - 5 - 5, 100 - 5 - 5, 120 - 5 - 5, 140 - 5 - 5, 150 - 5 - 5, 160 - 5 - 5. Applications to : CQ-SK-Award, Diploma Manager, Lennart Frostelid, SM4-5999, Frosterud 2671, S-690 10 ATORP, Sweden. If you want further details, you can ring 010-46-551-60370 or 010-46-550-19738!!.

DID YOU KNOW…..?

Howard Cunningham. G8FG/RSARS 0838 was recently elected as Regional Representative for RSGB Region 17. Howard polled 44 of the 62 votes east. Congratulations.

(Heard on the air) UK2BAB is the only UK2B-- station operating on RTTY.

THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR.

ROBIN/G8LT/0290.

(Favourable comments have always been received concerning RSARS "historical" articles and "Measles, Morse and Mobilisation" won the best "Mercury" article Award last year. In the following article we hear from another RSARS member, now well-known on the bands particularly in the RTTY field, with a call-sign indicating pre-War issue. - Ed.).

It was my mother, back in 1936, that I remember becoming flustered at receiving letters from the Engineer-in-Chief's Office of the G.P.O. which bore the daunting heading " Experiments in Wireless".

As far as she was concerned, this was the culmination of her son's many indiscretions, usually noisy and/or dangerous, in the field of "Wireless" in which he seemed to be engaged for most of his waking hours.

So it has continued through peace and war ever since, although she, kind soul, has long gone.

It was in 1936 that I became recognised "officially" by the issue to my long suffering Mum, with me as her agent, of an AA licence - 2BMA. We were off!!.

In the following 18 months, being a member of a certain University OTC, I had further acquired a "Signallers Certificate of Proficiency" which testified as to my ability to receive and send Morse at defined speeds with all sorts of impedimenta ranging from Flag through Lamp to Buzzer. This so impressed the E-in-C that the applications for a "Full" licence came up trumps. To get this coveted piece of paper you had to have a crystal complete with its Certificate showing its nominal frequency in Kcs (NOT KHz!) to an accuracy of 0·1%. This was provided by the Calibration Section Manager of the R.S.G.B. - no less!. It stated that the valve used was a DE5B with 5·5 filament volts, 200 HT volts, a Grid Leak of 1 MegOhm. Even the crystal holder was specified as a "QC Co. Type 'A'". The coil was a 25 turns Igranic, the tuning capacity 100 mmfd, and the temperature was 11 degrees Centigrade. This Certificate, duly stamped by the E-in-C's Office exists today.

Building the transmitter started with a visit to Woolworths where, for 6 pence a piece, two wooden knife boxes were bought. With the centre divisions removed and the boxes upturned and screwed end to end, a really workable wooden chassis resulted. The firm of G6PD and G6LX provided a number of the components required, as did a certain well-known business (RayMart) in Birmingham.

Gradually it took shape in the form of a type 49 Tritet Oscillator with a type 46 tuned Buffer capacity coupled to it. It was many months before this masterpiece was extended by the addition of an RK23 P.A. The Power Supply produced all of 300 volts of HT plus filament voltages and made a merry humming sound which gave visitors the impression of much imprisoned power awaiting release!!. The aerial was 66 feet long of nice new 14g enamelled copper wire strung between two convenient pine trees in the garden using washing line and pulleys with half a brick as counterweight. This was fed by a single 16g wire "Windom" fashion. The idea of the lighter gauge feeder was that it was supposed to match the impedance at the feed point better.

The log of the day testifies to the success of this antenna listed in the log as a "66ft NNE/SSW "Windom". The very first entry was with W3BXG on 14 Mcs CW and took place on 21st March 1937. The first 'Phone QSO took place on the 29th of the same month and was with G2NV as a result of calling "Test" (The use of "CQ" was strictly forbidden). Modulation was by feeding audion volts to the RK23 suppressor grid. The log book of those days is a nostalgic record and contains many calls long disappeared but some that are still heard today. A sample would include : GM6RG, G8KD, G2PU, G2YL, G5WP, G5TU, ON4XX, G5KJ and many others.

Operating customs were unique. Everyone was crystal controlled. You could either call "Test" on your crystal frequency and then search the full extent of the band on which you were working in case someone was replying to your call on HIS crystal frequency. Alternatively, you could search the band for a station also calling "Test" and when he ran out of steam, you called him. This

THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR - Contd.

arrangement worked well and you soon got to know where to find your friends. Most of the UK QSOs took place on 40 Metres as you had to have experience before you were allowed to use 80 Metres. 160 Metres was a popular band for evening CW.

Being restricted to just one frequency by the possession of just one crystal was restricting so you soon took to grinding your own additional crystals from blanks that cost about one shilling (5p) in those days. The technique was to acquire a sheet of plate glass and make up a slurry of carborundum powder and water, to put it on the glass and gently lap the quartz blank by means of finger pressure and a circular grinding motion. From time to time the half ground slice was washed off in clean water and tried in the usual open type crystal holder to see that it would oscillate and to what frequency it had been ground. With care, this gave some very good results. You could shift the final frequency a bit higher by putting one thickness of tissue paper between the crystal and the holder. A shift was achieved by either painting the crystal with some Indian Ink or rubbing it with a 'BB' graphite pencil. I possess some of these crystals to this day. I recall constructing a switchable source by lapping a brass plate about 8 inches by 3 inches by 1/4-inch thick. I turned a number of separate cover plates and connected each to one stud of a rotary switch with a crystal under each position. I had instant QSY over about 7 frequencies. Having regard to the harmonic relationship, you used the same crystals for all bands and doubled or trebled as the case may be. VFO's, as such, were unknown until the "Meissner" Signal Shifter made its appearance from the U.S.A. (Surely one of the first "Black Boxes").

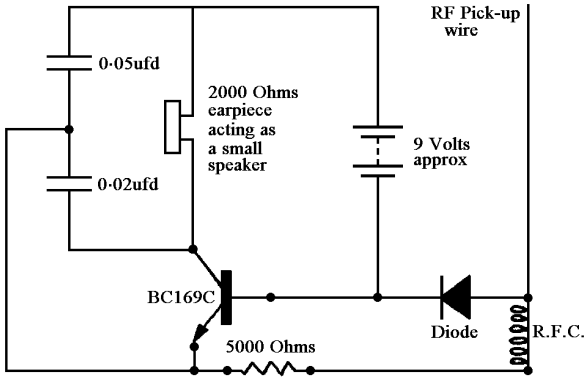
The receiver was also home-made and consisted of a TRF with Eddystone plug-in coils followed by a tuned detector, self oscillating, and then a large pentode output valve. The speaker was a very fine "Amplion" diaphragm type with a metal horn sticking out at 45 degrees. It produced communications type quality at resounding volume!!.

In those days gramophone records could be played, and 40 Metres abounded with some odd sounds. My modulator used to go blue in its tubes under the influence of Reginald Dixon!!.

(To be continued - The "Knife-Box" successor - PX25's - Curing BCI - QSOs on 60 cms Recognising a "Fist" - etc., etc.)

A USEFUL GADGET.

G3FK/0545.



The circuit shown here has proved to be a very useful gadget around the shack. It can be used as a CW monitor and gives an audible signal when tuning, say, an end fed wire. Under certain circumstances it can be used to check a SSB signal for the presence of carrier. Pick-up can be varied by moving the unit nearer to or away from the TX or by shortening the pick-up wire.

THE OWL REPORT

Having seen the mention elsewhere about the BARTG News Bulletin, the OWL tuned in to another transmission. News contained therein contained the following:- Between October 10 and November 10 1979, to commemorate 50 years of Amateur Radio in the Netherlands, amateur stations will have used an extra figure '5' in the call-sign. Hence PA0AA became PA50AA and PA3AHU became PA53AHU (at least, we hope he did!). Greece now has the following new prefixes in use - SV1 = Athens and District, SV2 = Macedonia and Thessaly, SV3 = Peloponnesus, SV4 = Central Greece, SV5 = Dodecanese, SV6 = Epirus, SV7 = Thrace, SV8 = Agean Islands, SV9 = Crete and SV0 = Reciprocal Licenses. Spain (EA, EA6, EA8 and EA9) may now be heard on Top Band between 1·820 and 1·835 MHz. The prefix group H8A to H9Z has been provisionally allocated to the Republic of Panama and T3A to T3Z to the Republic of Kiribati (previously the Gilbert Islands). The German Democratic Republic has already issued call-signs in the series Y2A to Y9Z. 1,450 delegates are expected to attend the W.A.R.C. and it is likely that 31,000,000 sheets of A4 paper will be used during the Conference. The cost is likely to have been something in the region of £3,000,000. A report that the Association of Radio Sport has been formed in China, with several former active amateurs among its officers might indicate that activity may once more be expected from China.

The above is only a small sample of the interesting and up-to-date news one can obtain each Sunday at 1200 hours clock around 3·590 MHz. So get those 75's (or 7B's or even those 444' s) from under the dust covers and get up-to-date with the news. (Thanks, BARTG).

Non - member G4GGY is still looking for an old brass double-current Morse key. Any news via the Editor, please.

From Ex-P.O. Telegraphist Phil Green (a dark blue job) the OWL hears that he is compiling a book of all ships that were in commission on 3rd September 1939. Part of the information he requires is any details of the ship's two-letter call-sign and also any info on the shore W/T call-signs in use at that time. If you can help, drop a line to Phil Green, 15 Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey, or ring 01-942-2881. (Tnx RNARS).

During a recent visit to the Inverness area of Scotland, the OWL was pleased to see Bert, G3MAY, together with Dot, obviously enjoying a holiday north of the Border. From one of his Great-Nephews (Iam McOwl of the Clan McHoot) he learns that there is a strong possibility that we may be hearing GM3MAY on a permanent basis sometime after Bert is due to retire around March 1980. Bert and Dot visited various places including Stirling, Perth, Pitlochry, Braemar, Inverness, Ullapool, etc. (The OWL was happy to pass along to Bert and Dot the fact that their coach driver was none other than an ex-Royal Signals type in the form of W. Cameron, first known in the Corps as 2326505 when he joined at Catterick on the 4th October 1937 and later as 22540221 when he re-enlisted. He served from 1937 until 1961 and you may have met him in Palestine Signals, 3 Signals Security Section, 12th East African Division Signals, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, War Office Signals, 7th Armoured Division Signals and 12th Commonwealth Division in Korea. Bill Cameron lives near Nairn and can be contacted through the Highland Omnibus Garage at Nairn. Although not, apparently, amateur radio orientated he will be pleased to see any members who may be visiting 'his' area).

The OWL regrets to report the passing of Clif Evans, K6BX, who founded and ran the International Amateur Radio Society, The Certificate Hunters Club, The Flying Hams Club and a number of other organisations. An outspoken but dedicated amateur, Clif suffered with blindness, deafness and various other medical problems, but this did not stop him working up to 17 hours per day to further the organisations he felt bettered the world of Amateur Radio. He died of yet another heart attack on March 30th. (Tnx CHC Chapter 8).

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

Reading through the CHC Chapter 8 Newsletter, the OWL thought that the Editor of same would not mind us publishing the following. It carries a grim warning, and all members who operate /M are advised to read carefully. It concerns the XYL, and RSARS member G3VNX. Ruth, G3TNN, writes: "After a recent experience G3TNN wishes to advise members into looking into Insurance cover for Mobile gear while it is in the car. On July 21st 1976 (as many of you already know) G3TNN was involved in a road accident when G3VNX was in the passenger seat. We were remarkably fortunate to survive such a crash. The car was extensively damaged and your scribe was totally innocent of the happening as the accident was caused by two vehicles colliding on the opposite side of the road, and one of them crossing the double white lines, leaving about 45 feet to stop when travelling at 50 mph.

Here comes the problem. Both drivers were charged with Section 2 but only the van driver was convicted. It is a fact under English Law that if one party is convicted there is a 1% liability against him/her and the right remains for the innocent party to recover in full against them. The fact that a third vehicle is involved has nothing to do with it, EXCEPT that in this case regardless of the right to recover, the other two drivers went on blaming each other and Lloyds Syndicate (Ibex Motor Policies) refused point blank to pay out for our losses. Despite being told that if we had to take court proceedings they would finish thousands of pounds out of pocket, we still had to issue a writ and it took 2½ years to come to Court. That, then, is what can happen to a totally innocent party and regularly does. Members are asked to think what it would be like if they use the same gear for the fixed station as well as /M and the station is damaged in such an accident. They could well finish up with no station for years on end, and at the price of any decent transceiver these days, it goes without saying that there are very few of us fortunate enough to be able to go out and spend several hundred pounds at a few seconds notice!. Fortunately for us the gear was NOT in the car.". (Tnx, CHC CH.8).

The OWL sat at the top of the tree that supports a well-known trapped dipole. There was little to do except think. He thought. He thought about books and magazines he had read, particularly page 211 of Cassell's Saturday Journal dated Saturday January 1st 1887 ("For the Homes of the People - Price One Penny") - Guarding the Bank of England. The Bank of England Guard consists of an Officer, two Sergeants, two Corporals, twenty-nine Privates, and a Drummer Boy. These may be seen marching eastward along the Thames Embankment almost any evening. Sometimes in bad weather they take the Underground Railway.

On arriving at the Bank, each Private including the Drummer Boy receives a Shilling; each Corporal, one Shilling and Sixpence; and each Sergeant Half a Crown. The Officer also receives payment; Dinner, too, is provided for him, to which he is allowed to invite one friend. Refreshments for the Soldiers are provided by a Jew - not gratis. This Jew, besides eatables, sells Porter, of which no man is allowed to consume more than two pints. The Officers allowance, after Dinner, is a bottle of Port.

The Soldiers leave the Bank at six in the morning in Summer, and at seven in Winter. They are usually sound asleep by that time, and it is the duty of the aforesaid Drummer to stir them up with his drum-stick.

Another item for the OWL's D.U.I. (Department of Useless Information) was published in the following weeks edition - If one Penny (old type money - Ed.) was invested at the birth of Christ at Five per Cent Compound interest, by Christmas Day 1815 it would have been worth £1,227,742,357,141,817,463,589,060,967,240,755,491 - 9s - 9d. Allowing gold at that time to be valued at £38 - 16s - 6d a cubic inch and that the above sum was used to purchase gold which, in turn, was shaped into a globe, the diameter of said globe would be 6,193,604 miles, 540 yards, 1 foot, 6 inches and a fraction which would exceed in magnitude all the planets in the Solar system. If the planet Earth was solid gold it would not pay one hour's interest on the above sum.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

And finally - in the "Agony Column" a letter from "Constant Reader" asks : "What are the regulations in a Cavalry Regiment when a recruit enters the Army and cannot close his left eye: whether he is allowed to fire from the left shoulder; and, if not, how is he assisted in firing from his right shoulder?". The answer was "The case is so singular a one that there is not likely to be any rule for dealing with it; but the probability is that inability to close the left eye would be a disqualification to enlistment"

(Sorry about all that, but the OWL insists that someone, somewhere, sometime will ask an R.S.A.R.S. member "If an old type Penny was invested at 5%...etc...etc. - Ed.).

The OWL, felt that a visit to WARC in Geneva might not be out of place and he duly arrived for the opening. He found that the start of the Conference was delayed as it could not be agreed who should be elected Chairman. The first proposal was that of the Assistant Director General of the New Zealand Post Office, Derek C. Rose. However, it appears that he was not acceptable to the "Non-aligned" countries. They proposed the Wireless Adviser to the Government of India but the "Western" group of countries could not agree. This was T.V. Srirangan who, like Derek Rose, had chaired other I.T.U. conferences. The next candidate put up would, it was hoped, satisfy everyone. He was Henry Kieffer, a member of the Swiss delegation, but he was rejected by both the "Non-aligned" and "Western" representatives. At last all agreed that R.J.P. Severini of the Argentine should become Chairman. The OWL hopes that the apparent division of the participants into "Western", "Non-aligned", "Third World" (and a section known as "77 Group") will not have adverse effects on the (very important) proceedings.

(Tnx, Electronics Weekly).

Reading through the "Welcome" section of this draft, the OWL pointed out that the first entry is far from complete, and suggests that readers should add the following to the "Welcome" entry "Peter has a T20AM/R6AM for 2 Metres, an FR50-B an FRG-7 and a Hughes Instruments MR5000 as a TX. All this connected to a 50 feet Marconi type wire antenna, with a beam still waiting the outcome of planning permission application. On the RTTY side there are two Creed 444's, a Creed 7B, a TT I Demodulator as well as an ST-6 Terminal Unit. Also an FSR II FSK Adapter. He is thinking of obtaining some facsimile equipment and wonders if any others members are knowledgeable in this respect so that he could 'pick brains' where necessary. As mentioned in the "Welcome" Peter collects ex-service equipment such as the WS19, WS22, R107, AR88, WS62, etc., and hopes to write a book on this equipment in the not too distant future. He would be willing to provide photocopy information on such equipment for R.S.A.R.S. members at cost of photocopying and postage. Next time, Mr. Editor, make sure your facts are complete" - The OWL. (Sorry about that, readers. - Ed).

Listening to the R.S.A.R.S. 80 Metre Nets, the OWL understands that G4BNI tickles melons, G3NVK collects wood lice, G3WRY sails leaking boats and G3RKN has his teeth out (several times during the evening!). And talking of G3WRY it has come to the OWL's notice that he is one of the few amateurs that has watched QRM on a neighbours TV that was caused by G3WRY. The OWL understands that some time ago a neighbour called and complained that Tony was causing TVI on her set, despite the fact that that the rig as not on and Tony was playing cards at the time. She insisted that he "come and see what you are doing". Being the gentleman that he is he accompanied the lady and was shown a TV picture complete with some form of TVI. "There you are, that's what you do to our set!". "How come I am standing here when I'm causing that interference?" "Oh I never thought of that!". Further investigation by the OWL showed that the lady concerned had seen the call-sign "G3WRY" on a QSL card displayed in the 'WRY family transport.....!

Two coloured photographs came to the OWLs attention the other day. They show a well equipped shack together with a tall, dark and handsome operator. The outstanding item in the shack is a genuine dentist's chair complete with padded armrests and headrest. The next time you contact G4DJI just say "Open wide"!.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

F3WL, our one and only active 'F' member, tells that he tries to work all bands outside TV hours using an FT-101 and a Hy-Gain Vertical 18AVT-WB, but concentrates on CW around 21·050 MHz. Jacques could not understand a recent reference to planning permission requirement for a tower in the UK. He says "I do not understand, isn't there a law, like in France, by which any licensed amateur may erect all aerials as he wishes??".

During a visit to the Ohio area of the U.S.A. the OWL learnt the great news that Fred Barnes, WA8PCT, who was left a widower some years ago, has found a new partner and will be getting married again shortly. Fred is fortunate that Mrs. Barnes-to-be (unfortunately, we don't know her name) is very understanding about amateur radio and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing them both the very best of health and luck. The OWL adds that we may have the pleasure of meeting them both next year or the year after when they are likely to visit G-land.

Chas, G5GH, will be giving up the appointment of Awards Manager for the R.S.G.B. from 1st January 1980. His duties will be taken over by Peter Miles, G3KDB, Box 73, Lichfield, Staffs. We wish Peter every success and a happy "retirement" to Chas and Harriet.

If you are still looking for a contact with Franz Josef Land, the OWL suggests that you listen around 14·005 or 14·090 for UP1PAL, around 2030 hrs GMT.

Dave Jack, 111 Friars Wood, Forestdale, Croydon, CR0 9JL, Surrey, has given up his licence, G3OFV, but sends his best 73 to all members and would particularly like to hear from Maurice Caplan.

The OWL has heard that Robin Bellerby, G3ZYE/RSARS 0944 has been asked to serve on the RSGB Raynet Committee. Congratulations, Robin.

Visiting a few R.A.I.B.C. friends recently, the OWL noted that Ray Williams, 204 Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincs., is still looking for a "candle-stick" telephone to complete his collection of vintage equipment, and Bob Scott, G4HWW, 106 Derby Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4NG is looking for a suitable A.T.U. for his TS-120-V. His telephone number is 061442-6238. Any members help?????.

The OWL offers congratulations to RSARS member G3DCZ who has been appointed Honorary Vice President of The Sutton and Cheam Radio Society in recognition of 18 years service to the Club.

Looking at some old records the OWL notices that Tom, G6HB, first served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and later, during WW II, with SCU3, SCU4, 10 WTS, 1 Wireless Regiment, etc. His moving around meant that you may well have met him as G6HB, VU2BX, VU2FP, XABQ, XAHB, G6HB/I, G6HB/I/Portable/OE3, DL2GC, I2BM, G6HB/ZS, G6HB/VK, G6HB/W6, G6HB/W3, G6HB/W7, G6HB/ON, G6HB/OZ, G6HB/VS6, G6HB/J, G6HB/KA, G6HB/SP, etc., as well as the following Marine call-signs XZN2E, POPI and PR1VY (? - Ed.)

M. Bryant, President Citizens Band Association, writing in "Citizens Band" Summer 1979 edition states that there are over 20,000 27 MHz CB radios at present in use in Great Britain.

The OWL was pleased to see a copy of "The Text Book of Wireless Telegraphy" by Rupert Stanley at HQ recently. This dates from 1914 and is the result of kind thoughts and actions by Eric Taylor G3FK/RSARS 0545 who donated same to RSARS HQ. Tnx, Eric.

Whilst in the area of Petit Mansion, 85 Sleater Road, Bombay, 400 007, India, the home of VU2MD, the OWL learnt that it had been decided to hold the 3rd All-India Amateur Radio Conference in Bombay in 1981. The two previous conferences, also held in Bombay, were outstanding successes. It is hoped that amateurs from Sri Lanka and, perhaps, Pakistan and Bangladesh will attend. Dady quite expects to be appointed to the posts of Propaganda and Public Relations, which means that he will be very busy for the next 18 months or so. (Not too busy to get on the bands occasionally, we hope. - Ed.).

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

Whilst visiting feathered friends in the New Forest, the OWL came across a station operating /P. It turned out to be G4IGE, perhaps better known as ZL3AGB, or RSARS 1451 or even 2584230. Tom retired in New Zealand at 60 (the normal ZL retiring age) and decided to return to G-land for a visit making Southampton his base for his trips which are mainly made with the aid of his faithful steed - his bicycle. Some years ago he lived and worked in the Eastney, Portsmouth area where his father was in the Divisional Band of The Royal Marines. By now Tom will probably be back in NZ from where we hope he can make many RSARS contacts.

TF3ON has been heard on 14096 CW looking for cross-mode CW/RTTY contacts. (TXing CW).

DA1MJ, Mike, RSARS 1429, is now with 2nd Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in B.F.P.O. 46 and has been on the air, using some borrowed equipment, and has succeeded in working most of Europe plus some W's and JA' s. He hopes to have his own rig (an FT-7) operational by now. He has the appointment of Training Officer and hopes to establish his shack in the Training Wing (next to Radio Squadron).

Another B.A.O.R. member that the OWL bumped into recently was Captain R.J. Turnbull R. Sigs. known as Bob and as DA4DY. Bob is located at 5 Field Force HQ and Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 36. He was previously GI8HNW and told the OWL that his application for his DA ticket TOOK FOUR MONTHS TO COME THROUGH!. This, says Bob, was no fault of The Joint Signal Board (through whom DA call signs for British Forces are applied for. - Ed.). When in GI-land Bob was very keen on RTTY but the XYL won the toss when the coin was spun to see if the Creed 7E should be taken to Germany!!. His interests are now in SSB and OSCAR. Bob is looking for VHF RSARS QSOs.

Another member interested in RTTY is G8DFZ/RSARS 1253/Jack. In sending along a correction to his Post Code, the OWL noticed that Jack is looking for any modifications to the BRAUN SE-600. If you have any info at all on such mods please drop a line to J.E. Annakin, G8DFZ, 25 Ashfield Place, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3JN. Jack is working hard at the Dots and Dashes and hopes to be radiating Marks and Spaces on the HF bands very shortly.

Tom Gates of Flat 2, "Brinklea", 10 Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, BN2 6HG was, for a long time, a member of RSARS but resigned due to poor health. Things have improved somewhat since then and Tom was wondering if members could help him. Tom served with the 49th (W.R.) Infantry Division Signals and wonders if there are any Old Comrades still around from that Unit. He remembers a Captain Piers-Moore (?), L/Cpl Faulkener, and a Sgt. Ackroyd. Divisional HQ was in two parts, Advance and Rear, and Tom served mainly with Advance HQ, usually on Battery Charging. Tom wonders if anyone remembers the old Polar Bear Div. sign. He also served with 56 Infantry Brigade where he remembers a Captain Williams. Tom was 2348876 and would like to hear from any 49th Div. or 56 Brigade, particularly 'A' Section Signals of the former. Please drop a line direct.

WE AGREE

ACTION!

WRAC '79 is nearly here.

A recent "Short Wave Magazine" editorial is reproduced on the left. Although now a little late for the present Conference we agree entirely with G3KFE. So, between

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF SAYING WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS OF R.S.A.R.S.AND HOPE THEIR STAY WILL BE LONG AND HAPPY.

RSARS 1406 - J/Sig, PETER WRIGHT, (Home address) 31 ELLIOTT ROAD, PETERLEE, CO. DURHAM. Peter served three years as a Royal Signals cadet with the Yorkshire CC.F. during which time he attended a couple of courses at the School of Signals at Blandford, He joined the Corps as a Junior Signalman on 12 September 1978, His interest in Short Wave Radio started about 11 years ago, mainly Commercial DXing but the Amateur side has taken preference for the last four years or so. His rig consists of a 19 Set with Ex-R.N. Teletype Terminal Unit together with a 7B printer. Peter is also interested in collecting Ex-WW II radio equipment and already has a WS22, a WS38 Mk. II and a WS38 Mk. III. At home he is a member of the Easington and District Amateur Radio Society,

RSARS 1407 - VICTOR TINDALL, 10 BLAKEHILL TERRACE, UNDERCLIFFE, BRADFORD BD2 3JS. Victor joined The Kings Own Scottish Borderers on 3rd September 1942 and completed six weeks initial Infantry training at Berwick-on-Tweed, The next move was to the Gunners and training as a Regimental Signaller at Wakefield. This three months training was followed by a posting to the Royal Artillery Base Depot at Cairo. Transfer to Royal Signals followed and this meant another three months at a Base Depot - this time the Royal Signals Base Depot at Maadi. Training and Trade Test for Operator Wireless and Line followed and then it was away to 4 L. of C. Signals in Beirut, Lebanon, Approx. 2½ years were spent with 132 Medium Wireless Section until discharge (at Catterick Camp) on 15 April 1947 in the rank of Corporal, In March the following year, Victor joined the Royal Naval Volunteer (Wireless) Reserve wherein he served 10 years as a Telegraphist with the official number W999128 (he had previously been WR2119), It was after leaving the R.N.V.(W).R. that 1407 bought a communications receiver and since then he has spent a lot of time listening to Short Waves. At one time he lived in South Devon where he was appointed an Instructor in No, 60 (Teignmouth) Squadron, Air Training Corps where he taught Morse Code and Radio Operating Procedures. Victor served with the Colours for 4 years and 318 days and marked his kit with "14278202". During his service with the Senior Service he operated as GZM75 in the north of England and GZM72 whilst in Devon. When not listening to Short Waves, Victor likes watching TV and listening to music.

RSARS 1408 - Sigmn. ADRIAN SCOTT, 206 EAST PARK ROAD, LEICESTER, ENGLAND (Home address). Adrian tells us very little on his application form, but it is suspected that he is in the Catterick area and that G3EKL might have been involved in the application. He joined the Corps as a Boy Soldier on 13th September 1977 and, apart from amateur radio, his main interest is Cross Country Running.

RSARS 1409 - Sigmn. JAMES THOMAS OATES, 24470375, RT39, 2 SQUADRON, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT, MESSINES LINES, CATTERICK GARRISON, DL9 3PS. When at home James is a member of the Edinburgh and District Amateur Radio Club (GM4HAM) but is, at present, at Catterick on a RTG Course having previously spent nearly four months with 11th Signal Regiment after enlistment on 1st August 1978. He hopes to sit the RAE in the not too distant future, and has plenty of other interests to keep him busy in the meantime. These include Darts, Cycling, Golf and Karate as well as Electronics.

RSARS 1410 - GORDON PARKIN, G3UVY, 8 SMITHFIELD CLOSE, RIPON, NOTH YORKSHIRE, HG 4 2PG. Gordon actually spent his service with the Royal Air Force, but is, at present, working with the Corps at Catterick. Gordon is rather modest on his application form, and just mentions that he is not active at the moment but is building the G3ZVC transceiver as a long term project and that his interests are micro-processors and canoeing. What he doesn't mention is that, together with Urban Smith/RSARS 0163, he was largely responsible for the production of "TIMOS" (Tape In Morse Out System) which produces that first-class Slow Morse transmissions

WELCOME - Contd.

that can he heard on 3·565 MHz each Tuesday and Thursday at 1900 hours Clock Time. Well done both, and welcome to the ranks, Gordon.

RSARS 1411 - NORMAN CAVANAGH, Due to circumstances fully understood by RSARS Council we cannot publish details of RSARS 1411, but we can say that Norman is occasionally active as G4ECV. Welcome, just the same, Norman.

RSARS 1412 - BRYAN RAYMOND LAWRENCE, "TRANBY", MEANEE ROAD, SCOTTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, DL9 3NB, Bryan, who is also a member of The Institute of Advanced Motorists, The Institute of Supervisory Management and (what looks like) RofMAA, joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1956 and transferred to Royal Signals in 1958 where he served for a further 20 years. If you think you may have bumped into him during that time his "Record of Service" reads as follows : 5th Training Regiment 1957-1960, 24th Signal Regiment 1960-1962, 4 OR1 Squadron 1961, 249 Signal Squadron 1962, 18th Signal Regiment 1962-65, 13th Signal Regiment 1965-1970, Small Arms School Corps, Warminster 1971-1972, 13th Signal Regiment 1972-1976, Depot Troop 11th Signal Regiment 1978. He has been an SWL for over 20 years and is now working for his ticket at Billingham and Stockton University. Other interests include Radio Controlled Models and the Motor Trade.

RSARS 1413 - ANTHONY JAMES RIXON, THE MANOR HOUSE, HARMBY, LEYBURN, NORTH YORKSIRE, DL8 5PD. Tony is also "short and sweet" with the details on his application form but we learn that he served 9 years with The Royal Artillery from January 1965 until August 1974 and spends his time listening with a Heathkit HR 1860. When not listening to signals bounced off the Heaviside Layer he is looking through it as his other interest is Astronomy.

RSARS 1414 - ALFRED BUTLER SMALES, 15 RUFFORD AVENUE, YEADON, LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE, LS19 9QR. Alfred enlisted into The Royal Corps of Signals on 13 April 1939 and joined 49th West Riding Division TA where he became 2578601 Signalman Smales A. and where he was trained as a Despatch Rider. He was mobilised on 2nd September 1939 when the Unit was known as 46th North Midland Divisiona1 Signals which later became 1st Air Formation Signals. He was soon with the British Expeditionary Force in France but was evacuated in May 1940. Until November 1942 he served in Northern Ireland and was then posted to North Africa. He suffered a leg wound in May 1943 and was shipped back to the U.K. in July 1943. He was discharged from hospital in November 1943 and was posted to Catterick for re-training as a Clerk. After training he moved to 2 Company, Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, Loos Lines from where he was demobbed on 4th January 1946. Now aged 62 years Alfred enjoys DXing with a Trio JR 500S. Other hobbies include Woodwork. Motoring and playing Chess.

RSARS 1415 - MICHAEL JAMES EDWIN GATER, G8OXB, 268 MAIN ROAD, NEW DUSTON, NORTHAMPTON, NORTHANTS, NN5 6PP. As well as now belonging to R.S.A.R.S., Michael is a member of the R.S.G.B., Northampton Radio Club, the Royal Engineer Yacht Club and is a Fellow of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He joined the Corps of Royal Engineers in October 1953 as a potential Trigonometrical Surveyor. He was commissioned in June 1954 at 11 School of Military Engineering but was discharged in April 1955 with a disability pension (now ceased) after a bridging accident. Michael's father also served with the Sappers in WW I as a Signaller and was, by all accounts, very adept with the key. Perhaps it is this that makes Mike want to get his Class "A" ticket!!. He has been interested in Amateur Radio since 1948 when he built is first 0-V-0 which was followed by a 1-V-1 and then a superhet. Then came a super-regen receiver when activity on 2 Metres was commenced around 1950. He then spent various periods as an SWL until 1978 when he decided it was time to sit the RAE. Another member of RSARS - G4AYZ - did the coaching and between them they were successful. On the practical side G8OXB has built P.S.U. and a small P.A. for the 2200 FM rig he runs. Later he hopes to build a linear for the HF bands when the G4+++ comes along. Other interests include all aspects of sailing

and boating, Genealogy, Local History, steam Railways, Archaeology and Music from Classics to Modern Jazz.

RSARS 1416 - PATRICK OGILVIE GEORGE BUCHANAN,/F.S.O. R/O P.O.G. BUCHANAN, BOX 490, UNITED NATIONS, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL. A rather full application form from Pat which reads as follows: October 21st 1960 Royal Signals Vimy Lines for Basic Training. December 1960 posted to 224 Signals Squadron for Special Operator training to AIII standard. August 1961 moved to 9 Signal Regiment. February 1963 on special detachment in Bahrain and on "operations" with Para. and SAS in the Trueial States. This was followed by a further period of detachment to Aden/Steamer Point and operations in the Radfan in the Spring and Summer of 1964 (Have the G.S.M. with clasp "Radfan"). August 1964 back to 224 Signal Squadron for upgrading to Special Operator AI and then in February 1965 to 13th Signal Regiment. July 1966 to Catterick for "Demob.". The next three years were spent with The Diplomatic Wireless Service as an Operator/Technician on a posting to New Delhi. From 1969 until 1978 1416 worked for various London companies as an Electronics and Marine Engineer. Eventually, in 1978, Pat joined the United Nations as a Radio Op. Under "Amateur Radio Details", Pat mentions the following: Whilst at 9th Signal Regt., Cyprus, I built and installed an antenna system for 3·5 to 28 MHz and renovated the AR88's and HRO Receivers and instructed in Amateur Radio techniques. ZC4SS was, at that time, a great Club operating on CW with a KW Vanguard TX donated by the Nuffield Trust. The Club call later became 5B4SS. Whilst in Bahrain I operated MP4BEE from March 1963 mostly on CW with a Heathkit DX40 and a Hammarlund Super-Pro RX. In Aden I operated from the local Club (but can't remember the call-sign!!!). Since those days I have been a keen SWL and spent much time on RX and antenna design and construction. Interests include Electronics generally - especially communications from HF to Satellite. CW to P.C.M. in its many varied forms. Music - Jazz, Blues, Rock and Roll (1950's style) and Country. Am passable jazz player on guitar. Collect 50's Rock and Roll LP records. Reading - History of WW II concerning all radio usage. SOE in Europe, Middle East and Scandinavia. Also all "skint" operations relating to "Enigma" and "Ultra" and associated work during WW II. Sport - Any sport that requires a ball, shape or size not important!!. Pat would like to contact any Royal Signals personnel who are ex-224 Signal Squadron or associated Regiments, also 226 Signal Squadron and G.C.H.Q. who may be operating "ham" radio, or who would like a holiday in Israel!"

RSARS 1417 - HON. CAPTAIN EDWARD ARTHUR CHARLES, VK5YQ, 41 OPEY AVENUE, HYDE PARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA 5061. Ted, as VK5YQ is known, served in the Australian Military Forces as a Section Officer (No. 356351) in the A.I.F. in the Middle East, New Guinea and Australia on full-time continuous duty from 1st May 1941 until released for service with the British Army in India on 15th July 1945. Granted an Emergency Commission in the Regular Army on arrival in India and posted to 14 Indian Division Signals Chhindwarra, Central Provinces. On the rundown of 14 Indian Div. Sigs following the end of hostilities, Ted was transferred to Malaya Command Signals (where he again served with Ron Pain, now P29RP, also ex A.I.F.). Ted was appointed Chief Wireless Officer, HQ Malaya Command on 21st September 1946 with the acting rank of Captain. Service ceased on 17th February 1947 when he relinquished his commission and was granted the honorary rank of Captain (Supplement to London Gazette 18th March 1947) on return to Australia. Under "Amateur Radio Details" Ted writes "Joined on formation, The Fullarton Radio Club, South Australia in 1934. (The F.R.C. later became licensed as VK5FR until it was affiliated with the W.I.A., S.A. Division). At the age of 18 I was granted an Amateur Operators Certificate of Proficiency (Certificate No. 1443 signed 5th March 1935) by the Post Master General of the Commonwealth of Australia and later issued with my station license - VK5YQ. My early QSO's were on CW using a TNT transmitter and a half wave Zepp antenna. I also briefly operated VK5SR, the Signals (South Australia) Radio Club, Keswick Barracks, Adelaide. By 1936 my transmitter had progressed to an MOPA with grid modulation for telephony,

WELCOME - Contd.

which, for a while, included broadcasting gramophone records (78 r.p.m.) on 40 Metres on Sunday afternoons!. The hobby was continued in low key amongst other typical Citizen Military Forces (Territorial) pursuits until the outbreak of WW II. When the HF bands were returned after WW II I obtained license No. 25 with the call-sign VS2BF for operating an Amateur station at Kuala Lumpur in Malaya. This was issued on the 18th June 1946 and enjoyed six months of being and working, DX on 10 and 20 Metres using a Hallicrafters BC-610 TX. On return to Australia I was reallocated my original call-sign and went on the air in June 1947 using a Type 3 Mk. II rig. Home brew equipment soon followed and 20 Metres was "The" band until going QRT "temporarily" in September 1952 to concentrate on family and house building. Activities had become "professional" rather than "amateur" - initially being employed in broadcasting and subsequently being associated with the Joint UK-Australian Guided Weapons Projects at Salisbury and Woomera (I retire this year). 1977 saw my return to Amateur Radio activities as a hobby, operating SSB on 10, 11, 15 and 20 Metres. 1978 added two Novice licenses to the family - VK5NRQ my wife Joy and VK5NKC my son Kim. Am interested in contacting all friends who can remember those yesterdays on air and in person. Other hobbies include the three 'R's' - Raising 6 children, Repairing their cars and Retiring!.

CAN YOU HELP?????.

G3UAA/RSARS 0454.

(Normally "Can you help???" items are short and to the point. This one is somewhat longer and came about as a result of a QSO between G3UAA and G3DPS. Alf is seeking information from members, particularly from our Senior Squad' and it is hoped that someone, somewhere, can drop a line to G3UAA (David A. Ramsey, G3UAA/0454, The Orchard, Carmen Grove, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0BA) with some additional information - Ed.).

"I wonder if you could publish what follows later in this letter in the hope that our more senior members, especially those who served with the Royal Engineers in WWI, might recognise locations and correspond with me about the quarry workers who were trained to serve in France during the 1914-1918 War.

The research I have been recently carrying out on the Groby Granite Railway in Leicestershire has led me down some fascinating avenues and the brief details which follow are just part of a longer story that should be in print just after Christmas 1979 and called the Groby Granite Railway, to be published by Turntable Publications of Sheffield.

Although a considerable amount has been written about the volunteers who left their work in the United Kingdom to fight for their country in the First World War, very little has been mentioned about the men who left this country to work in the quarries of France at the same time as the hostilities.

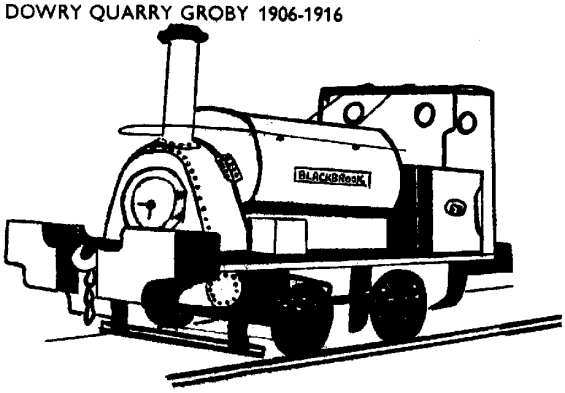
Volunteers for the Armed Services were called to arms in an extensive advertising campaign, well known to generations who were born after the fighting. However, the call to quarrymen to lend a hand in the war effort while continuing their jobs in different locations came at meetings called by the quarry manager during normal working hours.

For men willing to work in France, under difficult conditions, twice the Army rate of pay for Other Ranks was offered, e.g. 2/- (10p) a day. If volunteers from the quarry staff were found they were usually offered Non-commissioned Officer rank to carry out Overseers duties.

After being registered at the Wigston Barracks of the Royal Leicestershire Regt., two men from Groby were then sent to the Royal Engineers establishment at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire (August 1916). Here Vic Geary (now 92 years old) joined 198 Company RE and two weeks later Walter Rouse joined 199 Company RE as a Blacksmith.

CAN YOU HELP????? - Contd.

Although " trained" at the RE Barracks, this amounted to drilling as a body of men and being kitted out in the clothing necessary for work plus an SD hat and a Royal Engineers cap badge. Postings then took the men to various quarries in France. Vic Geary was posted to Marquies midway between Calais and Boulogne. The year was 1917 and the workers were given hutted accommodation on the edge of the village. The catering was carried out by Army cooks and M.P.s carried out their duties at the camp guardroom, as well as checking the workers fortunate enough to be granted a pass for a night out in Calais. The quarry workers were unarmed but marched as a group to work. Unfortunately, their uniforms were often spotted by German aircraft patrolling the area which was immediately parallel to the front line and because they were unarmed there was very little they could do but take cover!.



The processed stone was collected by French Railway workers in large wagons and taken away to make good the front line supply roads. (A standard gauge railway ran close by).

During 1917 Vic was posted to Brauy near Bethune. He was to learn later that shortly after his departure the morning shift had been heavily machine-gunned by a low flying German aircraft and many of his former friends at Marquise had been killed.

Not that Brauy proved to be a place of safety for during November 1918 the men were ordered to leave the quarry they were working in and follow the set withdrawal procedure. The German advance, which was as it turned out, the last counter-attack the enemy made during the war, took Victor and the remains of his fleeing Company to within 10 miles of the French coast before the fighting stopped and the armistice was signed between the Allied and German forces.

Can anyone help with other details of the Royal Engineers Regiment, Companies, at Mansfield in 1916?, or the Unit titles at Marquise and Brauy Camps, or detachments, around 1917?

MoD and RoD requisition lists for this period are very much sought after now, especially if they include details of locomotive movements and uses. Tales of misuse - the locomotive used as a heading on this letter (reproduced above - Ed.) Was observed for the first time after its disappearance from Groby down at the works of P.W. Anderson at Stone in Kent in 1916. The question posed here is, should this locomotive have crossed the Channel with the Royal Engineers or was it legally purchased? Stone is, after all, on the way to Dover but, alas the relevant records no longer exist (or so it seems!!!). Did the granite have other uses, other than patching up holes in the road. Who was responsible for directing road making material movement? Any information relevant to the above would be most welcome indeed. I have a number of photographs of British locomotives, photographed in the U.K., but until very recently they were stored in Belgium and because of this unpublished and largely unknown. How on earth did they come to settle in Belgium when the quarry was in Leicestershire?

Best Wishes David A. (Alf) Ramsey."

(Many mysteries remain from WW I - for instance a railway line local to the editors QTH - The Alton to Basingstoke Railway - was lifted (in more ways than one) in 1916 to be used in France. Apparently the metals never arrived, the excuse being that the "cant" was wrong. Their final resting place is unknown. - Ed.).

OVERSEAS BEACONS.

(We "borrowed" the following from the R.N.A.R.S. Newsletter and thank the Senior Service accordingly. As they say "The European Beacon scene is fairly well documented so it was with interest that some Beacon news from the DX area was found and reprinted below. Members in the Pacific and Americas may find these interesting; whilst those in the U.K. drool and note!" - Ed.).

6 Metres	2 Metres	Call-sign	Location
50·025		6Y5RC	Jamaica
50·050		WA1ENX	Maine, U.S.A.
50·080		TI2NA	Costa Rica
50·087		WA6MHZ	San Diego. U.S.A.
50·085		WA6JRA	Los Angeles U.S.A.
50·088		VE1SIX	N.B. Canada
50·092		W7KMA	Oregon U.S.A.
50·098		KG6JIH	Guam
50·100		ZKIAA	Cook Islands
50·101		FO8DR	Tahiti
50·104		KH6EQI	Pearl Harbour Hawaii
50·110		HL9WI	Seoul Korea
50·110		KG6JDX	Guam
50·110		JD1YAA	Marcus Island
50·110		KX6HK	Marshall Islands
50·500		5B4CY	Cyprus
51·999		YJ8PV	New Hebrides
52·110		HL9WI	Seoul Korea
52·200		VK8VF	Darwin
52·300	145·000	VK6RTV	Perth Western Australia
52·350		VK6RTU	Kalgoorlie Western Australia
52·400		VK7RNT	Launceston Tasmania Australia
52·440		VK4RTL	Townsville Queensland Australia
52·450	144·101	VK2WI	Sydney Australia
52·500		3D2AA	Fiji
52·500	145·250	ZL2VHP	Palmerston North New Zealand
52·500		JA2IGY	Nagoya Japan
52·800		VK6RTW	Albany Western Australia
53·000	144·800	VK5VF	Adelaide South Australia
53·100		VK0MA	Mawson Antarctica
	144·400	VK4RTT	Mowbullen Queensland Australia
	144·475	VK1RTA	Canberra Australia
	144·500	VK6RTW	Albany Western Australia
	144·700	VK3RTG	Vermont Victoria Australia
	144·900	VK7RTX	Ulverstone Tasmania Australia
	145·100	ZL1VHF	Auckland New Zealand
	145·150	ZL1VHW	Waikato New Zealand
	145·200	ZL2VHF	Wellington New Zealand
	145·300	ZL3VHF	Christchurch New Zealand
	145·400	ZL5VHF	Dunedin New Zealand,

TNX '2NLE.

News comes via Dick, G3NVK and RSARS HQ that, Les VK2NLE has kindly donated a VK call book which Dick has passed along to Catterick.

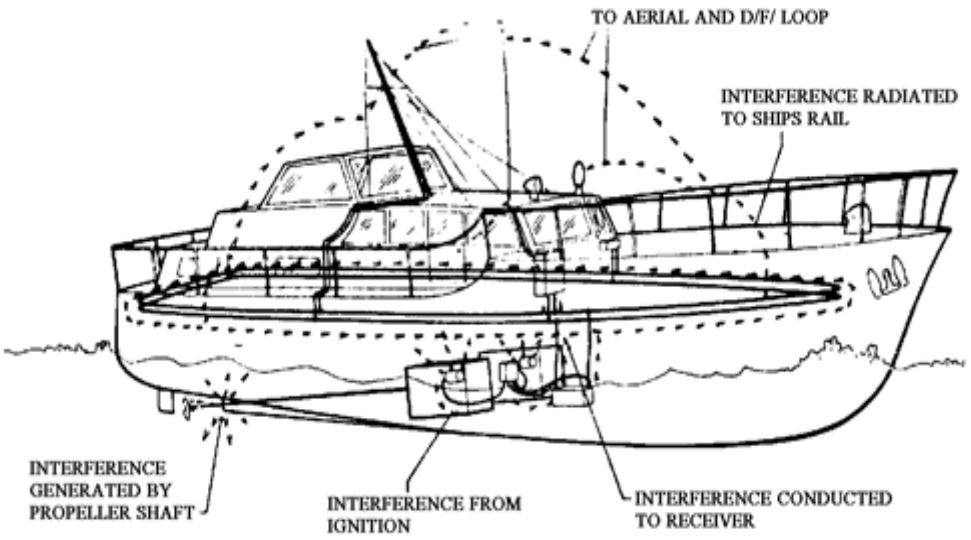
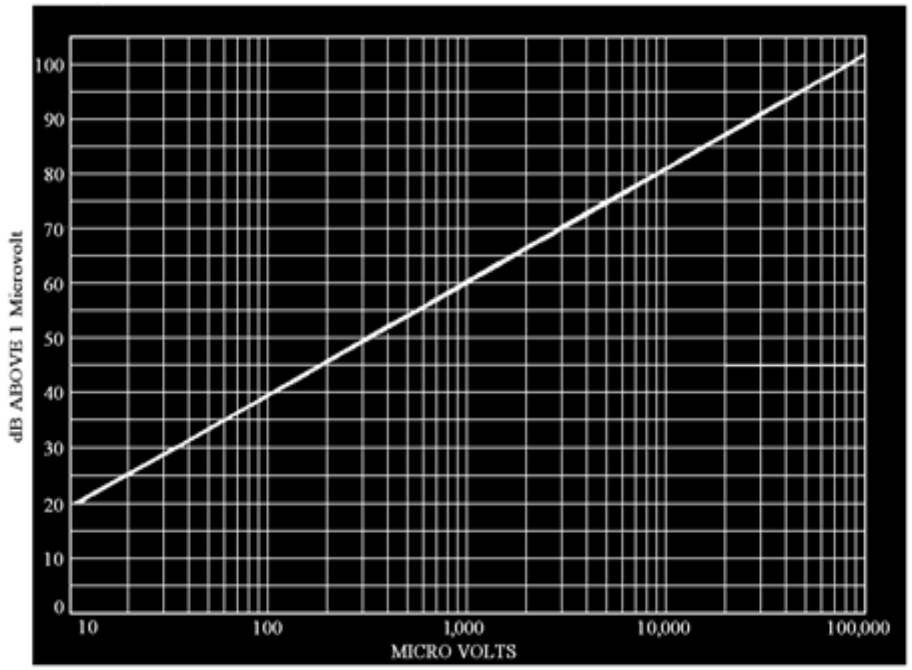


FIGURE 4. Modes of interference on marine craft.

STANDARDS.

In the U.K. the British Standards Institution has produced a standard BS 1597/1975 which defines the permitted limit of interference over a frequency range of 15 KHz to 100 MHz of radio installations aboard ship. This specification provides a standard of suppression for both terminal noise levels and radiated field strength which permits satisfactory operation of radio frequency devices under average sea-going conditions. Fig.3 shows the permissible limits of terminal voltage noise levels.

Fig.2 Decibel equivalents in microvolts



MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd.

NOISE LEVELS.

Class 2 refers to vessels in which some degree of screening already exists such as a steel hulled vessel with an isolated radio compartment. Class 1 should be the standard required in the smaller vessel and particularly to those of GRP or wood construction. The Lucas Marine suppressed equipment is designed to meet BS 1597/1975 Class 1 and it is suppression to this standard that is essential to the boat owner.

Screening (or shielding) may be defined as the employment of a metallic barrier to reduce penetration by electromagnetic radiation. A good screen must be capable of confining the undesired radiation or attenuating it to a point when it does not interfere with other equipment. Alternatively, it must be able to prevent susceptible equipment from receiving unwanted radiation that exists in the area of operation. For efficient operation the screening must be electrically bonded to a common earth so that the intercepted radiation is conducted along the screening and effectively grounded. The normal marine electrical system will employ screening for both purposes; to provide closed non-radiating circuits and to protect susceptible circuits from radiated sources.

Bonding may be described as a fixed union between two metallic surfaces resulting in a low impedance connection. Bonds are made so that there is no electrical disparity between the various parts of the structure, i.e. so that radio frequency currents cannot more easily flow in one part than another and so cause differences in potential which may result in interference. It forms a vital part of radio interference suppression and good bonding in the earthing system ensures that operators are also protected against electrical shock from fault currents in the equipment. All electronic equipment should have a continuous low impedance path to earth; good bonding ensures this and also makes certain that shielding is continuous and effective.

Corrosion is a problem that must be considered when discussing bonding. Since the object of bonding is to produce low impedance joints, the presence of corrosion will render bonding completely ineffective by forming high resistance joints and increased joint impedance to radio frequency currents. Corrosion in marine electrical systems is often caused by galvanic action which develops when moisture is present between two metals which are dissimilar in the electro-chemical series. For example, if copper is bonded to mild steel, and saline moisture collected at the joint then the steel would be severely corroded as a result of ion flow. If the copper were tin plated then corrosion would be negligible. Generally speaking, if a voltage potential of more than 0·25 Volt exists between the two metals which are in contact and wetted with a saline solution, then electrolytic corrosion, will occur. A fuller description of galvanic corrosion is given in the Lucas Marine publication No. 608 entitled "Marine Electrical Systems" for the benefit of readers who may wish to go deeper into this particular subject. If care is taken to make good joints when bonding, equal care must be given to ensure that the bond remains good or faults will develop in the suppression system that completely negate the effectiveness of the system. An additional precaution that must be taken is to avoid securing the common bonding tape to the inner side of the ship's planking, since if stray leakage currents develop as a result of an electrical fault, local breakdown of the timbers may occur. Ideally, the tape should be secured to a free-standing batten above bilge-water level and away from damp. The tape should be finally earthed to a sacrificial anode or underwater earth plate located away from propellers, "A" brackets or similar metal underwater fixtures.

IDENTIFICATION OF RADIO INTERFERENCE NOISE SOURCES.

The essential first step in suppression of radio interference is to clearly establish which part or parts of the electrical system constitutes the source of the unwanted interference. This can be determined quite simply by going through the following sequence of operations and noting the results.

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd.

1. With all engines, electrical gear and lights switched off, switch on the radio telephone or direction finding gear and note whether interference is present or not. If interference is present, the source is external to the craft and a change of moorings will effect a cure.
2. With the R/T or D/F set still switched on, switch on each electric motor in turn and note which motor or motors caused interference.
3. Switch off all electric motors and start engines. Run engines at sufficient speed to ensure that the generators are charging the batteries and again note if interference is present.
4. Stop engines and disconnect main output and field leads from engine driven generators, after carefully noting cables and terminals to facilitate correct reconnection. Start engines. If they are spark ignition petrol or paraffin engines, open and close throttles and note if interference is present. If the ignition is causing interference this will be apparent with the frequency rising and falling in synchronisation with the opening and closing of the throttle. Slow engines to idling speed and engage the propeller drive. Again accelerate and decelerate the engines and note whether interference is produced by the propellers and propeller shafts.
5. Disengage propeller drive and stop engines. Reconnect main output and field leads to correct terminals as previously noted. Switch off the RT and D/F sets.

This simple and logical series of operations will establish the sources of radio interference and prevent waste of time and money in fitting suppression equipment on items that do not need suppression. Having thus established the source the next step is to suppress the interference.

LUCAS MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT.

The Lucas Marine 446 suppression box is designed for use with alternator charging systems using solid state control units. Normally supplied complete with 440 solid state regulator for reliable control of AC5 and AC7 alternators, this box also provides protection to the 440 regulator against the surge currents created by accidental open circuiting of a running alternator. Designed for vertical mounting on a bulkhead, the box is air cooled and must have at least twelve inches of air space above to ensure effective cooling. The Lucas Marine type 508 suppression box is designed for use with the larger alternator charging systems: AC90 and AC203 self limiting machines with solid state control units. This box also provides protection to the 440 regulator against the surge currents created by accidental open circuiting of a running alternator. Designed for vertical mounting on a bulkhead, the box is air cooled and must have at least twelve inches of air space above to ensure effective cooling. Careful design ensures that the capacitors and inductors contained within the suppression box are adequately rated and provide an effective filter over the frequency range used in marine applications.

An essential part of the Lucas Marine suppression system is the metallic braiding used for screening of radiating or susceptible cables in the electrical system. Because of the enormous variety in size and location of marine electrical systems it would be unrealistic to offer standard lengths of screened braiding.

SUPPRESSION OF RADIO INTERFERENCE FROM SPARK IGNITION SYSTEMS.

The degree of suppression required on an ignition system of a marine engine depends upon the amount of interference received at the receiver of the R/T or D/F set and this in turn depends upon the location of the engine relative to the receiver, the amount of screening, either planned or incidental, and any coupling effects of cable runs etc.

If the ignition interference is only moderate, minor palliative measures can be used to achieve the required degree of suppression and these have the advantage of simplicity, low cost and flexibility of installation.

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd.

The radio interference produced by spark ignition can be recognised by a loud crackling in the receiver. This crackling is proportional to engine speed and the remedy is as follows :

1. Fit a 1 microfarad capacitor between 'SW' (or ignition feed side) of coil and earth (Not to 'CB' side).
2. (a) Wire-cored HT leads: Fit suppressed plug caps and distributor end caps.
   (b) Resistive HT leads: Fit screened plug caps and distributor end caps.

(To be continued)

A TRIP TO MOROKULIEN.

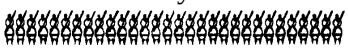
G4BNI/0982.

George recently spent a holiday in Scandinavia and this included a trip to Morokulien. He was very impressed with the set-up and writes:

"Morokulien is not only a place for radio - there are many delightful woodland walks and not very far from the village are lakes stocked with good fish. There are superb views in all directions, the shades of green are unbelievable and there is little or no noise. The countryside is there for one to enjoy.

For those of us who enjoy a bit of history, that too can be found in Morokulien. For in the centre of the village stands the monument of peace in memory of all those who died in the War of 1860 when Norway achieved independence from the Swedes. It stands as a symbol of lasting peace between the two countries. When you stand in the centre of the village you can feel the warmth of friendship all around in such peaceful surroundings.

It was a trip that will live long in my memory. My call-sign is logged in the visitors log Book. It all sounds so wonderful and it really is, but like all things it has its snags - the cost of living is high - but do not let that put you off visiting Morokulien. If you consider a visit, drop a line to the Secretary of the Morokulien Radio Club - the Club is yours for the asking as long as you are disabled



AWARDS AND CONTESTS REPORT.

G3EKL/0046.

Another black mark - I hope nobody is keeping count!!. Last "Mercury". No. 63, page 27, the Special Award (Europe) numbers were incorrect; please delete 24/25/26 and insert 25/26/27.

There has been one Contest since the July edition, the swan song of the VHF Contest as it was. And what an ignominious death! - to activate HQ, Johnnie, G3EJF, operated G4RS/P on SSB for the morning session whilst I aired G4RS/P on FM from various Eastern Pennine locations during the afternoon. Net result? - SFA!. That is, apart from G4CJU who kindly kept an ear open on whichever QRG Johnnie or I were on in case we missed anybody and the HQ Station Manager who had enough lous to use his own call-sign instead of G3CIO and submitted the only log, having found seven stations all within a 50 mile radius of Catterick Garrison!!. So - VHF '79 goes to G4EMX.

The revised Contest dates went out with the last "Mercury"; next sessions are the 5-59 in December, January and February with the November Section already behind us.

To simulate Awards activity, Ron, G3NKO, has agreed to operate G3NKO/LA during January and March 1980 as a Special Events Station - F31. Keep your ears peeled, if Ron can radiate as potent a signal from LA as he does from Cowplain then we can all enjoy some rock-crushing signals.

As at 1st October, progress on the ladders for the last four months is :-

(a) EUROPE SPECIAL SUPREME No. 3 - to Wilf GW3XHJ.

AWARDS AND CONTESTS REPORT - Contd.

(b) EUROPE CW - 100 rung - GW3XHJ
50 rung - GM3VVM
(c) EUROPE VHF - 20 rung - G3ADZ
12 rung - G4EMX
(d) OVERSEAS ANY MODE - Basic - VP8QH

Congratulations to the members concerned, particularly Wilf - very well done.

Ladder/Award details for this edition are :-

MOP Award		Le Touquet Award	
1973	G2KK	1975	G3NVK
1974	G3YSK	1976	G3UAA
1975	G3KJW	1977	G3NVK
1976	G8TK	1978	G3NVK
1977	G3MKR	1979	G3UAA
1978	GM3VVM	(Contest now changing)	

1 mentioned at the A.G.M. that G4RS/P had entered the HF NFD in the restricted section. We came over half way up, 22nd out of 49 and already have ideas of doing better in 1980. One of our keen CW members, Ted 0892, won an R.S.G.B. Certificate operating ZC4CZ and so too did 0845 VK6PG for "stations giving competitors most points" - we didn't even hear them, let alone work them!!. So that's one of our ideas - a less cloth-eared RX coupled to a better antenna; I have heard that "Big is Beautiful", but G4CJU, our operating manager hasn't elaborated any further yet!.

The 3·5 MHz Field Day results aren't available as I write these notes, but I may have them to hand when I write "Tail End Charlie".

To you all - a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 1980; may 1980 prove a bumper one for those of you interested in Society Awards and Contests.

73 Ray. G3EKL/0046.

(Space will always be made available in "Mercury" for operating times and frequencies of our Overseas members. Drop a line to the Editor (or any RSARS official) with the details. A number of "Home" members need Overseas contacts to make up their totals or their percentages, and it may well mean that the Overseas member will make enough contacts for an Award. Remember you only need roughly half the number of RSARS QSOs that Home members require for a specific Award. In early October, VK5NKP was heard on 21 frantically calling "CQ RSARS". No takers, and the Editors 70 Watts apparently petered out somewhere in the middle of the Indian Ocean!!. - Ed.).

SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS.

Perhaps we should say "Schoolperson" Howlers. Dick, G3NVK, sent along a number which have appeared in student's science papers. Samples will appear at odd times at no extra cost to members.

"The Moon is a planet just like the Earth, only deader".

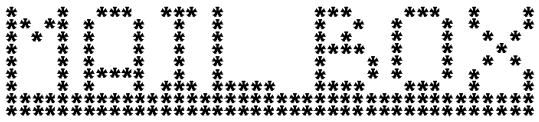
"Ammonium Chloride is also a silly maniac".

"Geometry teaches us to bisex angels".

"Algebraic symbols are used when you don't know what you are talking about".

"Parallel lines never meet unless you bend one or both".

"Blood flows down one leg and up the other".



(Being a selection of letters received from all sources which, it is hoped, will be of interest to members, and may even become the subject of other letters).

From; J.I.G. Brown, G3EUR/RSARS 0403, 74 Humber Avenue, SOUTH OCKENDEN, Essex, RM15 5JN. "I have enjoyed reading "Mercury" still more: my cheque herewith can be put down to appreciation not subscription...I paid a Life Sub. on joining. (Thank you, John, for a very generous donation - Ed.). The correspondence in Mail Box brings back nostalgic reminders of the past, I was disappointed being unable to attend the A.G.M. - hope to next time. Do let us have very PRACTICAL articles: with humble respect to G3WZS, the textbooks and some of the journals of the learned societies, even the popular magazines, are stuffed with mathematical analyses of circuits so that more useful might be a short interpretation of well-known circuits, identifying the more important parameters and practical points like: High stability needs hi-Q coils, silver-mica or air capacitors, balanced temperature co-efficients (add a negative co-efficient ceramic to the positive co-efficient coil to get zero temperature drift). Reduce oscillator power to reduce heating and use a buffer to keep the load on the oscillator light and constant, etc., etc. Save the precious pages for the material only "Mercury" can bring. How about spelling out present Amateur practices in Civvy Street?. Returning to listening to 2 Metres recently, I was sad to find that I was not "with it", baffled by some of the new abbreviations, use of Channel numbers instead of frequency (my AR-88 + 144/28-30 MHz converter is calibrated in MHz) and frustrated by several amateurs who, after a long natter with many repeated or spelled out words which were unmistakable in the first place, gabble out a hasty station call from which no-one could identify either party in the QSO. Then the hackle-raising interruptions by childish types, funny voices, heavy breathing, background music etc., made me wonder why I was spending time on 2 Metres. If this is a sample of licensed band clutter, what will it be like if we get CB?.

Back to "Mercury". The note on page 6 of No. 62 by G3NXM is an example of a useful contribution. Pat Hawkers Technical Topics in RadCom is a treasure-house of 'gen' with references so that one may get back to source. For those who do not have RadCom a corner of "Mercury" might be used for a summary of the most interesting snippets of the times, perhaps more orientated towards RSARS and the Corps. More about the problems (and answers) found in RAYNET (I learned and was motivated by G3ADZ's article). Let's have more Ha-Ha and Hi like "Heard on 80" and less puzzle-corner unless the puzzle is a case history and the correct answer is not revealed until the next issue. You know the drill..." the circuit did not work - why??". I could go on but space limits me to congratulate G8PG, whose memoirs rang loud bells in me and probably in many other amateurs. Keep up the "Welcome" columns - one feels already introduced and keen to contact the new members. "Mercury" is a splendid effort and all who work hard to put it together deserve the appreciation of the members.

73 John I. Brown G3EUR"

From: Gus Taylor, G8PG/0026, 37 Pickerill Road, Greasby, Merseyside, L49 3ND. "I was surprised and delighted to receive the "Best "Mercury" Article Award" for 1978. It is certainly a handsome trophy and it will grace my desk in no uncertain fashion. The choice of trophy is certainly most appropriate. I am also delighted that my tale telling has given a number of my fellow RSARS members pleasure. As they say "Those were the days, my friend". I only wish that I could go back to them knowing what I know now!!!. Again, many, many thanks for the Award.
73. Gus Taylor (Signed alternately in red and blue! - Ed.).

(The "Best "Mercury" Article Award is awarded annually to the author of the "Mercury" article voted best by a general membership vote. At present it consists of an engraved desk set. All members are eligible - all you have to do is write an article for "Mercury" and await the result of the vote!. Overseas members are particularly welcome to participate. - Ed.).

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From : Les Simons, VK2NLE/1422, 211 Hopetown Avenue, Vaucluse 2030, N.S.W., Australia. (Several letters have been received by various members from Les. Extracts from some follow.) : My equipment here is a Kenwood TS-820-S into a 3 element yagi which is 50 ft high, and as you can see by the map it gives me a very good take-off, but perhaps favours the short path to Europe. I do quite well on the long path but the QRM from JA drives me up the wall!. Here in VK-land it is almost unheard of for anyone to ask if the frequency is being used.....

.....About myself, I went into the Army in 1941 and, much to my surprise, they asked me what I would like to do. I replied that I would like to be a Driver as "then I won't have to walk so much". They made me an Instrument Mechanic!. My civilian occupation at that time was Cabinet Maker and I worked in my father's furniture factory in London. I still think to this day that they must have been awfully short of people with a more technical background. After my Trade Test at Prestatyn I went home on a week-end without a pass, got caught and was sent to Catterick - it was SO cold there!. I then went to Cairo, first at H.Q. and then to 21 T.M. Section which was the Section that serviced (some say wrecked) Monty's HQ for 8th Army Signals. I stayed with them right through the desert, then to Malta, then Sicily and Italy, etc. Posting to 30 Corps near Trieste followed. I was demobbed eventually and in 1951 left for Australia with two young kids. We now have four, three being married and we have four grandchildren. I am semi-retired. I am on the bands every day around 12:00 GMT for two or three hours depending upon conditions. Frequencies are : 15 Metres, First choice - 21·155, Second choice - 21·175, 10 Metres, First choice - 28·575, Second choice - 28·525, all + or – QRM (usually 'JA').....

.....During my service I was, at one time, billeted in Maadi and was on shift at HQ in Cairo. Our T.M.O. was a Lieut. Lovell. Some of the other names that come to mind are Foreman of Signals Richardson (he came from Cornwall and was in the T.A.), Sgt. Skinner, "Nobby" Clarke and "Taffy" Evans. The last two were from Wales. I think that Nobby worked for the P.O.. I also remember a fellow I.M. named George Foster. He came from Reading and also, I think, worked for the P.O.....

.....I was in the U.K. in August 1978 (the weather was atrocious!). On our way back from England we stopped off in Japan, and went to see JA2OXD. Luckily, we went there well prepared with gifts for the family, as they certainly made us welcome their hospitality was overwhelming. They had many presents for us including kimonos, pyjamas, toothbrushes, towels, slippers, etc., and even had new beds for us for our overnight stay. Soon after our arrival, after the whole family had been ceremoniously introduced, Nori informed us that he would like to instruct us in the art of having a bath, communal Japanese style!!. My wife said, quite clearly, "No way" and we took our baths (Japanese style, of course) but quite separately!. We asked if it would be possible to make a morning cup of English style tea. Nori was very surprised that a guest would want to do something for themselves, but when I told him that my wife was the Champion Tea-Maker of All Australia, he agreed. When asked for milk, he produced three pints (for two cups!). During subsequent QSOs, Nori tells me that he has taken a liking to English type tea (as opposed to the Japanese green tea) but has not yet made it as well as my wife - "but then she is the Champion Tea-Maker of All Australia".

Best 73, Les.

(By now Les has probably worked 25 or more RSARS members and puts a good signal into the U.K.. He is very keen on RSARS contacts and members are invited to contact him at the above frequencies/times. Often VK5NKP/RSARS 1418 is with him so there is a chance to get two more of those elusive overseas QSOs. - Ed.)

From : F.S.O. R/O Mr. P. Buchanan, RSARS 1416, Box 490, United Nations, Jerusalem, Israel. Pat writes "What has happened to 15 Metres!?. 0600 - 0900 hours Eastern Europe only, and the rest of the time nothing! (This was the end of September - Ed.) 10 Metres is particularly good just now, if one waits long enough for the DX skip to come in 9Y4 - OD5 - FC2 - EA8 - HH2 - 3V8 -

MAIL BOX – Contd.

VP5 - C31 - 9H4 - 7X5 - PJ2 - 8P6 - CP5 - HSI - ZK2 – VO1 - VR6TC - FM7 - ZD8 - 9J2 GB3RN (How was THAT call-sign allowed in here - The OWL) - HI8 - FK8 - OY5 etc. Beginning to look like a valve junk-box!. 'G' stations are heard very often and are to be congratulated, not only on their flawless SSB signal quality, but their invariably high standard of operating - and that's unbiased. The woodpecker was on 20 earlier at 40 over 9 - I feel sure that the OWL could have a quiet one in his lug-hole whilst proceeding on his many and varied wanderings (At the time of writing, the OWL was away on one of his many and varied wanderings. However, he has mentioned that this problem has not escaped his notice!)

By the way, I understand that VEIATP, Ray, of Prince Edward Island appears to be the only ham who works from there and not frequently, as I believe he lives on the mainland. He works 10 Metres SSB. Also, something else which I have been unable to get any information on - even here is Israeli stations signing 4Z6.

By I November this year I shall be home for a couple of years, and my address will be: Mr. P.O.G. Buchanan, 521 Caledonian Road, London, N7 9RH. Later in the year I hope to be going to Scotland and may well try and visit HQ.

73 Pat.

From: Bill Eason, RSARS 1431, 36 Potters Field, HARLOW, Essex, CMI7 9BZ. "I endorse wholeheartedly your "Mercury" editorial recent issue. Having crept back shamefacedly into the Amateur ranks after a very long time, I am really astonished at the behaviour of some licensed hams on the air - not only the cretins on some VHF frequencies and repeaters, but the inconsequential exchanges 0f1 VOX. Radio communication is supposed to be the transmission of intelligence between stations; not push-button and VOX break-ins, which add up after hours of power consumption, to Sweet Fanny Adams. It's like two Young boys shouting into two tin cans along a length of string.

Apart from the QSO's on our local Top Band Net, I most enjoy the controlled RSARS Nets with the voices and call-signs which have become so familiar to me - and the discipline of the stations calling in. The fact that so many wear, or have worn, "Jimmy" is doubly a pleasure to me for there always remains the feeling of the spirit of the Corps - that in communications we were once temporary professionals; that in going on the air we should retain the dignity and professionalism that once we were expected to observe (or heaven help us!!). The day that I receive my call-sign (not long ahead, I hope) will be the day that I call into the Net proudly and say that I have returned to the ranks.

I am retiring early this week (end of August '79 - Ed.) from ITT: 26 years as a Calibration Engineer, Electronics is enough!. I want to put my commercial professionalism into operating my own station, as an ex-Signals operator should. I do appreciate "Mercury" and the hard work that makes it possible. Thanks.

Sincerely, Bill Eason."

DID YOU KNOW……?

It was in I 920'hat British Officers changed from badges of rank on the cuff to wearing them on the shoulder.

Brownie, G2BQ, received the Polar Medal for his services with the 1935-36 Northeast-land Expedition and the Norwegian War Cross from King Haakon for services in Spitzbergan in 1942-43

That during WW I it was not unheard for an Infantry Regiment to have as many as 60 Battalions.

SILENT KEY

G6VQ

We regret to record the passing of G6VQ/RSARS 0364 who died on the 24th July 1979. We have no further news at the moment, but it is known that we have lost yet another well-known and respected amateur and RSARS member.

It was only recently that G6VQ "enlisted" VK2NLE into the RSARS ranks. The President, Officers and all members express deepest sympathy to family and friends of the late G6VQ.

SILENT KEY - VK LAND

From VK2NLE, the following extract from the VK Amateur Radio magazine for Oct 1979 was received and is reproduced "in toto". It refers to Member 0168 Capt. (Retd) F.A. Carruthers.

Fred Carruthers QRT on 10th July, 1979, following an intermittent illness which had plagued him for the past year. He was 74 years of age, and had lived a full and happy life. Although he was an active amateur operator for most of his life, his amateur activities were particularly rewarding for him in his later years.

His Certificate of Proficiency was issued on 12th May 1933, and in his early years as an amateur he was very active in WIA work. His technical skill was put to good use in the service of his country. When in 1940 he was called from the reserve and entered the Army Signal Corps as an officer, where he served throughout World War II. On return from active service, he resumed his amateur activities, and soon became recognised as an avid DXer and award hunter. He held DXCC No 105. issued on 15th July 1967, and also the Certificate Hunters' Club membership No. 3435, bearing the Achieved 50 Awards seal. He also held the ARRL Old Timers' Club membership issued on 20th September 1966, and the Old Timers' Club (Aust) membership issued on 11th May 1977. In addition, he was a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.

On the local scene, he was a keen member of the Summerland Amateur Radio Club at Lismore and used his expertise as a lawyer to give much valued guidance in the formative years of the Club. He was a regular caller on the VK2 so-called 3695 net, which is a perpetual morning feature in the eastern States, providing a forum for debate on any subject known to man. Right up to the time of his last illness and even afterwards direct from hospital when he was well enough, he could also be heard regularly on the morning net through Summerand Repeater VK2RIC.

He is sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Officers and members of RSARS extend their deepest sympathy to relatives and friends of RSARS 0168 - VK2PF.

SILENT KEY

RSARS 1317

Just prior to closing for press we heard, via RSARS 1318, news of the passing of RSARS 1317 C.J. Greenan, of 48 Grasmere Road. London, N12 2DJ. RSARS 1317, who was also BRS 38746, was not licensed but was an avid CW listener.

He met his wife whilst serving with the Military Mission in Belgrade and has maintained an interest in Amateur Radio for many years. The President, Officers and all members of RSARS extend their deepest sympathy to all relatives and friends of RSARS 1317

COMMERCIAL RTTY.

"HOG"

(Many amateur stations, both licensed and SWL, are today equipped for the reception of RTTY. Amateur RTTY stations are increasing almost daily, but it is often helpful to be able to tune to a commercial transmission to assist in equipment tests, etc.., as well as to be able to read the news. The following list is produced to show some commercial transmissions, which should provide commercial (usually 50 Baud) copy for interest purposes. Times of operating are not given as these vary considerably, if a particular station cannot be found, try another frequency. The origin of this list is not known, but due acknowledgements are hereby made to the originating source.)

NEWS AGENCIES.

Init./Abbrev.	Name.	Country.
AA	Anatolia Agency	Turkey
ADN	Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst	East Germany
AYP	Agence France Presse	France
AGEPRESS		Romania
ALFIL		Spain
ANTARA		Indonesia
ANSA	Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associati	Italy
AP	Associated Press	USA
APS	Algerian Press Service	Algeria
ARF	American Republic File	USA
ARNA	Arab Revolution News Agency	Libya
ATA	Albanian Telegraph Agency	Albania
AZAP	Agence Zairoise Presse	Zaire
BTA	Bulgarian Telegraph Agency	Bulgaria
CETEKA	Ceska Tiskova Kancelar	Czechoslovakia
CIFRA		Spain
CNA	Central News Agency	Taiwan
DPA	Deutsche Presse Agentur	West Germany
EFE		Spain
FGIS	Federal Government Information Service	West Germany
GNA	Ghana News Agency	Ghana
HAPTONG		South Korea
HNA	Hsinhua Hews Agency	China
IIS	Indonesian Information Service	Indonesia
INA	Iraqi News Agency	Iraq
IPS	Interpress	
ISI	Information Service of India	India
ITT	International Telephone and Telegraph	USA
JIJI		Japan
JPS	Japanese Press Service	Japan
JTA	Jewish Telegraph Agency	Israel
KCNA	Korean Central News Agency	North Korea
KNS	Kyodo News Service	Japan
KPS	Korean Information Service	South Korea
LATIN		Chile
MAP	Maghreb Arab Press	Morocco
MENA	Middle East News Agency	Egypt
MONTSAME	Mongolian Telegraph Agency	Mongolia
MTI	Magyar Tavirati Iroda	Hungary
MUYOK		Japan

COMMERCIAL RTTY - Contd.

OAHA	Organisation of Asian News Agencies	Indonesia
ORBE		Chile
ORIENT PRESSE		South Korea
PAP	Polska Agencja Prasowa	Poland
PL	Prensa Latina	Cuba
PTI	Press Trust of India	India
REUTER		Great Britain
SANA	Syrian Arab News Agency	Syria
SEF	Special European File	
SIO	State Information Office	South Africa
SUNA	Sudanese Hews Agency	Sudan
TANJUG	Telegrafska Agencija Nova Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia
TAP	Agence Tunis Afrique Presse	Tunisia
TASS	Telegrafnoya Agentstvo Sovietskogo Soyuza	USSR
UPI	United Press International	USA
USIS	United States Information Service	USA
VNA	Vietnam News Agency	Vietnam
VOA	Voice of America	USA

Frequency	Call-sign	Agency	Country	Copied	Date
2788	EAB13/4/2		Spain	_____	_____
2830	4OC3	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
2887		SANA	Syria	_____	_____
3115		BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
3200	YZA	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
3355	SUA99	AFP	Egypt	_____	_____
3355	WWF33	SEF	Morocco	_____	_____
3397		BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
3571	SUA45	MENA	Egypt	_____	_____
4280	EAB13/4/2		Spain	_____	_____
4525	LZI	BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
4601·5	OLA21	CETEKA	Czechoslovakia	_____	_____
4623	SOE26	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
4804	ISZ48	ANSA	Italy	_____	_____
5027·5	OLC7	CETEKA	Czechoslovakia	_____	_____
5040	WWF25	SEF	Morocco	_____	_____
5097·5	JAB37	JIJI	Japan	_____	_____
5112	4OC3	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
5195	DMV53	AND	East Germany	_____	_____
5220	SUA94	MENA	Egypt	_____	_____
5240	4OC2	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
5275	SUA221	AFP	Egypt	_____	_____
5450	4OD	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
5457		BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
5584		ORBE	Chile	_____	_____
5740	4OE	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
5741	SOF27	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
5830	RWD52	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
5842	FTF84	AFP	France	_____	_____
5850	SUA79	MENA	Egypt	_____	_____

COMMERCIAL RTTY - Contd.

5859	DMV3	ADN	East Germany	_____	_____
5867	YAL68	INA	Iraq	_____	_____
5890		TAP	Tunisia	_____	_____
5895	RHA72	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
5907·8	ISY59	ANSA	Italy	_____	_____
6356	EAB6/8/17		Spain	_____	_____
6776	GPR26	REUTER	Great Britain	_____	_____
6780		MENA	Syria	_____	_____
6806	SOG38	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
6810	HMF73	KCNA	North Korea	_____	_____
6845	ISY68	ANSA	Italy	_____	_____
6848	SOG48	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
6860	CLN45	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
6863	CLN46	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
6870	HMH28	KCNA	North Korea	_____	_____
6870	RTV55	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
6875	WWG36	SEF	Morocco	_____	_____
6888	SOG68	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
6890	WWF56	SEF	Morocco	_____	_____
6910	9PX29	REUTER	Barbados	_____	_____
6915	BAP46	HNA	China	_____	_____
6935	WFA36	AP	USA	_____	_____
6946	CLN89	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
6950	RCV29	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
6972	YOG59	AGERPRESS	Romania	_____	_____
6985	SOG45	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
7327·5	JAE27	AP	Japan	_____	_____
7328	OLW4	CETEKA	Czechoslovakia	_____	_____
7390	HMF18	KCNA	North Korea	_____	_____
7425	DMV5	AND	East Germany	_____	_____
7425	VNA13	VNA	Vietnam	_____	_____
7465	CLN66	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
7487·5	DFG49L3	DPA	West Germany	_____	_____
7491	DFG49	DPA	West Germany	_____	_____
7524		HNA	China	_____	_____
7525	RTV54	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7555	DMV34	AND	East Germany	_____	_____
7560	RPT30	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7562	SOH25	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
7565	YAX75	INA	Iraq	_____	_____
7567·5	JAF	JPS	Japan	_____	_____
7610	SUA231	AFP	Egypt	_____	_____
7615	RTT44	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7626	EFE/CIFRA/ALFIL		Argentina	_____	_____
7628	WFI97	ANSA	USA	_____	_____
7650	BZR67	HNA	China	_____	_____
7658	YZD	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
7662·5	WFA27	DPA	USA	_____	_____
7695	RMD51	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7696	3MA35	CAN	Taiwan	_____	_____

COMMERCIAL RTTY - Contd.

7700		MENA	Syria	_____	_____
7708	BAS32	HNA	China	_____	_____
7708·5	WWF87	SEF	Morocco	_____	_____
7725	SAH27	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
7756	SUA230	MENA	Egypt	_____	_____
7760	WFA67	UPI	USA	_____	_____
7760	VNA12	VNA	Vietnam	_____	_____
7760	RRQ24	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7762		BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
7775	ATJ58	ISI	India	_____	_____
7806	YZD7	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	_____	_____
7840	CLN86	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
7845	SOH28	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
7847	SOH38	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
7849·5	WFI57	UPI	USA	_____	_____
7850		TAP	Tunisia	_____	_____
7850	ZAA	ATA	Albania	_____	_____
7857	9GN238	GNA	Ghana	_____	_____
7868	6MK5O	HAPTONG	South Korea	_____	_____
7875	RNN52	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
7900	CLN89	PL	Cuba	_____	_____
7925	6MK64	ORIENT PRESS	South Korea	_____	_____
7930	ATA58	PTI	India	_____	_____
7940	CEA7A	LATIN	Chile	_____	_____
7974·5	IRE79	ANSA	Italy	_____	_____
8000	ISY80	ANSA	Italy	_____	_____
8001	SO12O	PAP	Poland	_____	_____
8020	HME46	KCNA	North Korea	_____	_____
8030	RRQ27	TASS	USSR	_____	_____
8055	LZA2	BTA	Bulgaria	_____	_____
8060	RAW71	TASS	USSR	_____	_____

(To be continued with frequencies up to 24790 KHz).

DID YOU KNOW.....?

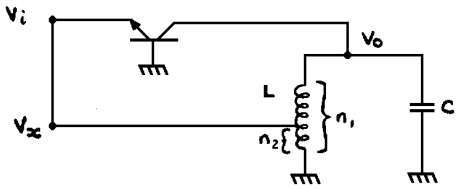
From G3EUR). Visitors to London should know that the Science Museum in Kensington as a fine collection of communications sets from Marconi's days, war-time Signals sets, SOE equipment, SIS "suitcase" sets, etc. as well as the modern Amateur station.

Keith Geddes and Jeff Voller are keen types and happy to meet enthusiasts, specially those who can offer bits of historical information to help complete their files of unique items, origins, applications, operations, etc.

They have a policy of finding/restoring/showing items which may be regarded as milestones in radio, and do NOT compete with the Imperial War Museum, Royal Signals Museum or others who try to make complete war-time collections, or The Wireless Preservation Society which is mainly domestic entertainment/amateur items.

Visitors to Oslo or Bergen should see the wireless museums there. They have many items not found elsewhere.

THE HARTLEY OSCILLATOR

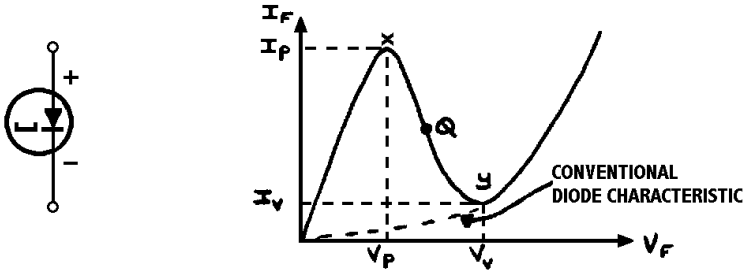


Differs from the Colpitts circuit in that the coil is tapped instead of the capacitor.
The turns ratio determines β

$$i.e.\ \beta_v = \frac{V_x}{V_o} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

TUNNEL DIODE OSCILLATORS.

When suitably biased a Tunnel Diode exhibits negative resistance. The symbol and characteristics are shown below.



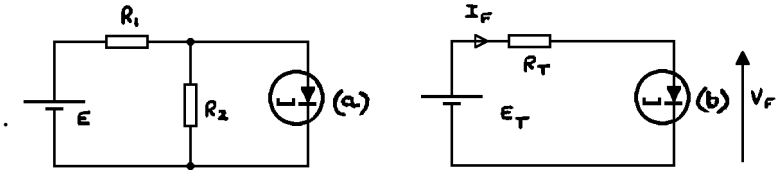
When V_f is increased from zero, I_f increases more rapidly than for the conventional diode. The steep rise is due to the tunnel effect, a phenomena in which carriers cross a P-N junction even though they have insufficient energy to overcome the potential barrier. For this effect to occur a very narrow depletion region is necessary. This is obtained by heavy doping of both P and N regions.

The current and voltage corresponding to point x are the peak point current I_p and the peak voltage V_p. As V_f increases beyond V_p, I_f decreases, i.e. negative resistance. The valley point current and voltage, I_v and V_v, are at a point y.

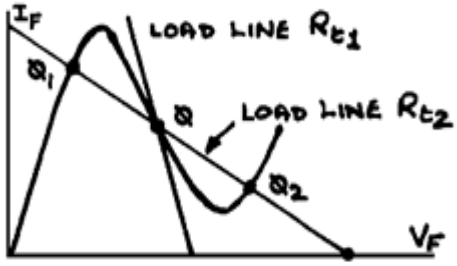
Beyond V_v the device behaves like a normal diode. Typical specification for a germanium device is:

$V_p = \mathbf{50}\,\text{mV}, \quad I_p = \mathbf{1}\,\text{mA}, \quad I_v = \mathbf{0 \cdot 1}\,\text{mA}, \quad V_v = \mathbf{350}\,\text{mV}.$

$$\text{Dynamic resisance } r = \frac{\Delta V_f}{\Delta I_f}, \text{ typically} - \mathbf{250}\ \text{ohms at } \theta.$$

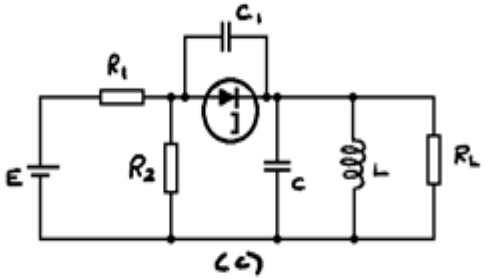


Biasing circuit and Thevenin equivalent circuit is shown in (a) and (b). Depending on the choice R_t and E_t a number of possibilities arise. Two different modes of operation are illustrated below. If R_{t1} applies there is only one intersection at θ. Load line slope is steeper than diode characteristic, i.e. R_{t1} < /r/. This results in stable operating point and diode useful as amplifier or oscillator.

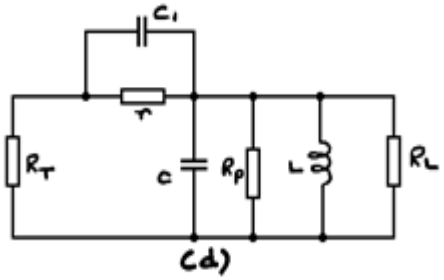


For R_{t2}, there are three intersections but only θ_1 and θ_2 are stable. A stable operating point occurs when $R_t < |r|$, but if R_t is to small, excessive power is taken from the d.c. supply.

Typically $R_t \Psi \frac{1}{5}|r|$. The circuit diagram of a tunnel diode oscillator and it's a.c. equivalent are shown in (c) and (d). The d.c. equivalent is the same as (b).



(c)

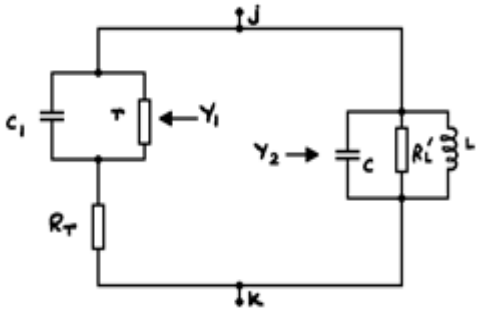


(d)

Energy is absorbed by R_t, coil resistance R_p and R_1. The externally added C_1 swamps the diode diffusion capacitance.

For sustained oscillation, the diode negative resistance must supply whatever energy is lost in all positive resistances. The energy comes from the supply; the diode converts this energy at the frequency of oscillation. Since the negative resistance region is limited, then so also are permitted voltage and current swings. Typical output power is a few hundred microwatts.

The equivalent circuit of (d) is redrawn in (e).



(e)

$$R_L' = R_p // R_L$$

Conditions for oscillation may be determined by writing an expression for Y_{jk}.

$$Y_{jk} = Y_1 + y_2 \qquad Y_1 = \frac{1}{Z_1} \qquad Z_1 = R_t + r // \frac{1}{jwC_1}$$

$$\therefore Y_1 = \frac{r + R_t + w^2 r^2 C_1^2 R_t}{(r+R_t)^2 + (rwC_1R_t)^2} + j\frac{wrC_1(r+R_t) - rwC_1R_t}{(r+R_t)^2 + (rwC_1R_t)^2}$$

$$Y_2 = jwC + \frac{1}{R_1'} + \frac{1}{jwL}$$

$$\therefore Y_{jk} = \frac{1}{R_1'} + \frac{r + R_1 + w^2 r^2 C_1 R_t}{(r+R_t)^2 + (rwC_1R_t)^2} + j\left(\frac{wrC_1(r+R_t) - rwC_1R_t}{(r+R_t)^2 + (rwC_1R_t)^2} + wC - \frac{1}{wL}\right)$$

WHERE WERE WE ALL???.

For a long time the Society had a display board that showed Units to which members, both past and present, had belonged or to which they had been attached. This was never complete and is now a little out-of-date. If YOU were with or attached to a Unit not shown below, drop a line to the Editor (NOT TO H.Q. AT CATTERICK - THEY' RE A BIT BUSY AT THE MOMENT) and the information will be added to the records.(You can also enclose your next "Mercury" contribution in the same envelope!!!. - Ed.)

1 AGRA Field Signal Squadron
1 Infantry Division Signal Regiment
1 L. of C. Signal Regiment
1 (N.Z.) Division Signal Regiment
1 M.M.G. Brigade Signals
1 Operatots Training Battalion
1 Wireless Regiment
1 (BR) Corps
1 (N.M.) Corps Signal Regiment
1 Wireless Company
1 Depot Battalion R. Signals
1 Training Battalion R.E.M.E.
1st Infantry Division Signal Regiment
1st Airborne Division Signals
1st Armoured Brigade
1st Army Signals
1st Air Support Signal Unit
1st Battalion Queen's Dragoon Guards
1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment
1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment
1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards
1st British Corps Headquarters
1st Canadian Signal Regiment
1st Cheshire Regiment
1st Coldstream Guards
1st Commonwealth Division Signal Regiment
1st Motor Division Signals
1st Cavalry Division Signals (Light Horse)
No. 1 Headquarters Signal Troop
No. 1 Special Wireless Group
2 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment
2 Armoured Division Signals (T.A.)
2 Division Signal Regiment
2 Signal Squadron (Seoul)
2 L. of C. Signals
2 Training Regiment R. Signals
2 Wireless Company
2 Wireless Regiment
2/5 Hampshire Regiment T.A.
2 (Egypt Command) Signal Regiment
2nd Air Formation Signal Regiment
2nd Cheshire Regiment
2nd Holding Battalion R. Signals
2nd Independent Parachute Brigade
2nd W/S Signal Squadron Sappers & Miners
No. 2 (East African) Advanced Signal Park
3 Infantry Division Artillery (U.S. Army)
3 Intelligence School
3 L. of C. Signals
3 Trades Training Battalion R. Signals
3 Division Signal Regiment
3 Corps Signal Regiment
3 Operators Training Battalion
3rd Air Formation Signal Regiment
3rd Cavalry Signals (India)
3rd Kings African Rifles
3rd Light Infantry
No. 3 Base Workshops R.E.M.E
4 Guards Brigade
4th Air Formation Signal Regiment
4th Armoured Division Signal Regiment
4th Indian Division
4th L .of C. Signals
4th Queen's Own Hussars
4th Armoured Training Battalion
4th Royal Tank Regiment
5 Brigade Signal Squadron
5 Corps Signals
5 Division Signals
5 Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers
5 L. of C. Signals
5th Battalion Cameron Highlanders
5th Infantry Division Signals
5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards
6th Airborne Division Signals
6th Armoured Brigade Signals
6th Battalion 1 GRTD
6th Guards Tank Brigade
6th L. of C. Signal Regiment
7 Primary Training Centre
7 Signal Regiment
7 Training Regiment R. Signals

WHERE WERE WE ALL??? - Contd.

7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment
7th Royal Tank Regiment
7th (U.S.) Army Transmitter Pool
8th Field Workshop (Airportable) R.E.M.E.
8th Armoured Brigade
8th Independent Signals
8th Royal Tank Regiment

9 AGRA
9 Corps Signals
9 Field Squadron R.E.
9 Parachute Field Squadron R.E.
9 Signal Regiment
9 (Australian) Signal Regiment
9th Army.

10 Medium W/T Section
10 W.T.S.
10th Royal Hussars
10th Signal Regiment
10th Special Forces Group (U.S. Army)
10th Tank Regiment

11th Air Formation Signal Regiment.
11th Armoured Division Signal Regiment
11th (East African) Division Signal Regt.
11th Signal Regiment
11th Field Regiment R.A.

12 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron
12 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
12 Wireless Squadron
12 Army Group U.S. Forces
12th Australian Light Wireless Section
12th L.A.A. Regiment R.A.

13 Brigade
13th Scottish Infantry Division
13th Signal Regiment

14th Army Signal Regiment
14th Signal Regiment

15 Army Group.
15 Battery 2nd H.A.A. Regiment R.A.
15 Brigade
15 Signal Regiment
15th Air Formation Signal Regiment
15th Headquarters Signals
15th Infantry Brigade Signals
15th Medium Regiment R.A.

16 Base Ammunition Depot
16 Coastal Regiment R.A.
16 Si~a1 Regiment
16th L.A.A. Regiment RA (TA)
RE 16th Parachute Brigade
16th/5th Lancers

17 Brigade
17th Infantry Brigade Signals
17th (Gurkha) Signals Regiment

18 Army Group
18 Medium Regiment R.A.
18th Signal Regiment

19th Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Sqn.

20 Division Signal Company
20th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron
20th Field Regiment R.A
20th Independent Division Signals (Burma).
20th Liaison Headquarters

21 Tank Brigade
21st Army Group
21st Signal Regiment

22nd Armoured Brigade
22nd Cheshire Regiment
22nd Signal Regiment

23rd Field Regiment R.A.
23rd Special Air Service Regiment (T.A.)

24th Signal Regiment

25th Corps Signals
25th Indian Division

No.26 Technica1 Maintenance Troop R. Signals

27th Field Regiment R.A.

28 (BR) Signal Regiment
28th (London) Regiment (T.A.)

29 British Infantry Brigade (Korea)

WHERE WERE WE ALL??? - Contd.

29 Engineer Brigade (U) Signal Troop
29th Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Sqn.
29th Field Regiment R.A.

30 Corps Signal Regiment
30 Engineer Brigade (V) Signal Troop
30 Engineer Group (V)
30th Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers
30th Field Regiment R.A
30th Signal Regiment

32 Engineer Regiment

33 Signal Regiment (V)

34 (N) Signal Regiment (TAVR)
34th A.A. Battalion RE
34th Army Tank Brigade

35th Tank Brigade Signal Squadron
35th Engineer Regiment

36 Brigade
36 BRIC (Combined Operations)
36th Indian Division

37 Engineer Regiment RE

38 Engineer Regiment RE
38th Signal Regiment

39 Signal Regiment (V)

40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment

43rd Wessex Engineers
43rd (Wessex) Infantry Signals
43rd W/T Section (B.E.F

44 (Cinque Ports) Signal Regiment TA
44th (HC) Divisional Signal Regiment

45th (WC) Divisional Signals

47 Guided Weapon (Field) Regiment RA
47 (London) Signal Regiment TA

48th Divisional Signals TA

49 Division Signal Regiment

49th (Yorks) Regiment TA

50th Division Signal Regiment TA
50th Field Squadron RE

51 Independent Infantry Brigade
51 (Gurkha) Infantry Bde Signals (Borneo)
51st Highland Division
51st Highland Signal Regiment

52 L. of C. Signal Regiment (AER)
52 (Lowland) Division Signals

53 Medium Wireless Section
53rd Welsh Division

55th Divisional Signals
55th (West Lancs.) Motorised Div. Signals

56 (London) Armoured Division
56th Divisional Signals

61 Division Signals
61st Medium Regiment R.A. (TA)

64 Squadron 38th Signal Regiment

67 Primary Training Wing

70 Brigade (East African) Signal Troop

71st Signal Regiment (V)

73 (C) Squadron R. Signals
73 H.A.A. Regiment R.A

76th Divisional Signals

78th Infantry Division
78th Line Section O and S Signals

79th Armoured Division

80 Signal Squadron TAVR

87th Airborne Field Regiment RE
87th Signal Squadron

90th H.A.A. Workshops R.E.M.E.

WHERE WERE WE ALL??? - Contd.

94 Signal Squadron TAVR

95 Independent Battery (Field) R.A.

96 Submarine Cable Section

101 Sub-Regional Signal Troop
101 Wireless Regiment (Australia)
104 Beach Group Signals
105 Special Wireless Section
106 Infantry Division (U.S. Army)
106 Signal Company (U-S. Army)
107 L.M. Signals (Beirut)
111 Special Wireless Section
123 Special Operations Group
126 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron
128 Infantry Brigade
144 Medium Wireless Section

151 OCTU
156 (EA) H.A.A. Battery E.A.A.
163 Infantry Brigade
188 Radar Battery R.A.

203 Signal Squadron
204 Field Squadron RE
208 Signal Squadron
215 Signal Squadron
222 Signal Squadron
224 Signal Squadron
228 Signal Squadron
233 Signal Squadron
234 Signal Squadron
242 Signal Squadron
249 Signal Squadron

252 Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Sqn.
259 Signal Squadron
261 Airborne Park Squadron RE
261 Field Park Squadron RE
261 Signal Squadron (A.S.)
262 Signal Squadron
266 Signal Squadron

304 Signal Squadron TA
312 Company RE
314 Signal Squadron TA

403 Wireless Detachment

523 Signal Troop (K.O.S.B.)
551 Signals Troop

602 Signal Troop
603 Signal Troop
604 Signal Troop
606 Signal Troop
624 L.A.A. Regiment R.A
625 Signal Troop
633 Signal Troop
640 Signal Troop
641 Signal Troop
642 Signal Troop
661 Regiment Field Artillery R.A. (TA)

835th Signal Service Battalion (U.S. Army)

889 Signals Unit

1028th Signal Company (U.S. Army)

"A" Corps Signals (India)
"A" Corps Signals (U.K.)
"A" Company Depot Battalion R. Signals
A.A. Command Radar School
A.F.H.Q. Signals I.S.L.D. Calcutta
AGRA Signal Squadron TA
Air Support Signals Unit
Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders
Army Air Corps
Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Army Catering Corps
Army Phantom Signals
Assam and Bengal Signal Section
Australian Imperial Force
Army Works Study Team

B.C.O.F. Japan
Base Signal Regiment (Kure)
Base Workshops R.E.M.E. (Singapore)
"BEETLE" (London and Eastern Command HQ)
Bombay District Headquarters
Border Regiment
B.T.N.I. Corps Signals
Bomb Disposal Cadre RE
Berkshire and Westminster Dragoons (TA)

Cameronian Scottish Rifles
Central Command Signal Company (AGRA)

WHERE WERE WE ALL??? - Contd.

City of London Signal Regiment TA
Combined Operations Signal Squadron
Comcan Installation Team
Comcan Malta
Cyrenaica Signal Regiment
Depot Battery R.A.
Depot Regiment R. Signals
Devon and Dorset Regiment
'E' Company Depot Battalion R. Signals
East African Signal Training Centre
East Riding & Lincs. District Signals
East Surrey Regiment
Egypt Command Signal Regiment
Eastern Command Signal Regiment
Essex Yeomanry R.A.
"F" Company R. Signals
Forces Broadcasting Service (Malta)
Forest Moor Wireless Station
"G" Company R. Signals
GHQ Eastern Command
GHQ India
GHQ S.E.A.C.
GHQ Southern Command
Glasgow Academy C.C.F.
Glider Pilot Regiment
Guided - Weapons Troop Signals
Hong Kong Signal Regiment
HQ Aden Brigade
HQ AFCENT
HQ Northern Ireland
HQ Southern Army Signals (India)
HQ Southern Command Signals (India)
H.M.S. Intrepid Signal Troop
I.S.L.D. Calcutta
Independent Workshops Group
Indian Signal Corps
I.G. Training Team (Far East)
Junior Leaders Regiment - Troon
King's Dragoon Guards R.A.C.
King's Royal Rifle Corps
Liverpool University O.T.C
Lucknow District Signals
"M" Section R. Signals
Middle East School of Signals
Middlesex Regiment
Middlesex Yeomanry
Malaya Command Signals Regiment
New Zealand Scottish Regiment
Norfolk Yeomanry
North Staffordshire Regiment
Northern Command Signal Regiment
Northern Command Signals Rawalpindi
O.S.D.E.F.
Oxford University O.T.C.
O.T.S. Mhow
Oundle School C.C.F.
Palestine Command Signal Regiment
Peshawar District Signals
Phantom Signal Unit
Polish Parachute Brigade Headquarters
"Q" Line Section
Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
Queen's Own Royal Regiment T.A.
Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
R.A. Range Hebrides
Radio Security Service
Raiding Forces (Signals)
RE Airfield Construction Group
Royal Anglian Regiment
Royal Army Dental Corps
Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Royal Electrica1 and Mechanical Engineers
Royal Fusiliers
Royal Hussars
Royal Lincolns
Royal Military College of Canada
Royal Military Police
Royal New Zealand Signals
Royal Tank Regiment
Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Royal Horse Guards Signal Troop
Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers Militia (TA)
S.A.S. Troop Signal Squadron

WHERE WERE WE ALL??? - Contd.

Salisbury Plain District Signals
School of Artillery Larkhill
School of Signals
School of Signals (Poona)
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment
Seaforth Highlanders
SHAEF Signals
Signals Experimental Establishment
Somerset Light Infantry
South African Corps of Signals
South East Asia Command Headquarters
South Ireland Signal Section
South Staffordshire Regiment
Southern Command Workshops R.E.M.E.
Special Communications Unit No. 1
Special Communications Unit No. 3
Special Communications Unit No. 4
Special Forces Signal Section
Special Operations Executive
Special Wireless Pool
Staff College Camberley
Suez Troop - 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment
Special "Y" Group MI8D
The Artists Rifles
The King's Regiment
The Loyal Regiment
The Malay Regiment
Turkish Army Chief of Staff (Tech. Adv.)
U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment
Ulster Defence Regiment
War Office "Y" Group
War Office Wireless Service
Weapons Research Establishment Woomera
Welch Regiment (TA)
West Yorkshire Regiment (SR)
Western Command Signal Regiment
Wireless Experimental Section Cherat
Worksop College O.T.C.
"X" Branch Headquarters Palestine
"X" Indian L. of C. Signals
XIV Army Signals
"Y" Indian L. of C. Signals
York and Lancaster Regiment

DID YOU KNOW …?

(From a BARTG RTTY Bulletin - No. 177). In late August. BARTG will start an experimental 75 Baud transmission on Sundays. This will follow the normal 45·5 Baud transmissions on 144·600 MHz.

That RSARS 1422/VK2NLE is the first station to receive the RNARS Mercury Award without working a single 'G' station - 18 were VKs, 1 was a P29 and the 20th was VK0PK on Maquarie Island. Les was also the first recipient of the RNARS (VK Section) endeavour Award who was not a member of RNARS.

Australian Novice Licensees are restricted to the following frequencies: 3·525 - 3·625 MHz, 21·125 - 21·200 MHz and 28·100 - 28·600 MHz. Novice call-signs contain the letter 'N' after the numeral. Look particularly for VK2NLE - RSARS 1412.

The IARU are recommending a new reporting system for 'phone QSOs. In the same way as we use RST for CW they suggest RSM (!) for 'phone, being Readability, Signal strength and Modulation. 'M' suffix is 1 to 5 from 'Unintelligible' to "Good Modulation'. (TNX B.R.S.)

In the ten years 1969-1978, the British Government allocated £2,948,800,000 in Overseas Aid to Developing Countries. (And if you counted it at a £1 note every 30 seconds, day and night, from the year 0 A.D. until the end of 1979, you would still have over 850,000,000 Pounds to count. - The OWL). (Sorry about that last bit, but statistical thinking seems to have gone to his head - Ed.)

That the projectile fired by the British 6-Pounder Anti-Tank Gun actually weighed 6lbs and 4 ounces.

RTTY BULLETINS.

(TAKEN FROM THE GB2ATG BULLETIN).

Up-to-date RTTY (and other) news can be obtained by copying any of the following:

DK2ZL/Every Sunday/0900GMT/3·582 MHz === DJ1XT/1st and 3rd Sunday/0800GMT/7·035/75 Baud === DL8VX/2nd and 4th Sunday/0800GMT/7·035MHz/75 Baud === DJ1XT/1st and 3rd Sunday/0900GMT/3·585 MHz === DL8ZX/2nd and 4th Sunday/0900 GMT/3·587MHz === DK0FR/Every Thursday/1915GMT/28·100MHz == DL6OR/Every Sunday/0800GMT/Via Repeater DB0SI === DK7HG/1st and 3rd Sunday/0900GMT/Via Repeater DB0YR === DL8VX/2nd and 4th Sunday/0900GMT/Via Repeater DB0YR === DK0FR/Every Thursday/1915GMT/145·300MHz/F2 === DK4XW/Every Sunday/0900/145·300MHz/F2 === PA0AA/Every Friday/2030 GMT/Simultaneously on 1·827, 33·600, 14·100, 144·800 and 433·765MHz (During Winter months the 14·100 frequency is dropped and 7·040 substituted) === GB2ATG/Every Sunday/as follows, frequencies + or – 2 KHz,/0730 GMT - 14·090 - Beamed SW to VK/1530 GMT - 14·090 - Beamed East/1900 GMT -14·090 - Beamed NW/1100 GMT - 3·590/1130 - 3·590/1800 GMT - 3·590/0930 GMT - 144·600 Leeds Area/1100 GMT - 144·600 - Manchester Area/1130 - 144·600 - London Area/1230 GMT 144·600 - Northern Ireland Area/ === VK2TTY/ Every Sunday/0030 GMT/7·045 and 146·600MHz/0930 GMT/3·545MHz and 146·60MHz.

TAIL END CHARLIE

(Odds & bobs from Headquarters)

Quite a few odds and bobs this time as the Editor has left me two pages to fill!

(a) G3WGM/MM - our erstwhile mariner Jim is QRT and once again land locked. Regrettably he had very little spare time for amateur operating and didn't manage to get on the bands to any great extent. Now that I have received his logs, all QSL's for G3WGM/MM have been completed and sent to the RSGB Bureau. Unless I made a gross error, Jim worked six G stations in all - G3LB, G4RS, G3LIK, G3RRS, G4FXT and G4HKE.

(b) In the last "MERCURY" I mentioned the possibility of holding 1980 AGM at Alexandra Palace. Regrettably that has fallen through and the AGM will again be at Catterick.

Details are as for 1979 except that the date is Saturday 28th June '80.

This will be repeated in the Spring '80 "MERCURY".

(c) For any of our members using our slow morse transmissions, the VHF frequency is changing to 144·250 Mhz from Jan 1980.

These automatic transmissions are being well received up and down the country on 80 metres and numerous letters of thanks are being received by G4RS.

(d) From the Corps Regimental Headquarters in Chelsea comes a request for contact from all old Canadian Signals Amateur, VE3IGC. Andy Kidd would like to make contact with any ex Signals amateur either over the air or by letter. His QTH is:- 60 BARBERRY PLACE, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA.

I have sent him a copy of this "MERCURY"

(e) Please look at the back cover!

(f) Don't forget that G3NKO is operating as an affiliated station during January and March. He will be signing G3NKO/LA as F31.

(g) I had the pleasure of meeting quite a few Society members at the LUMLEY CASTLE Rally in October. It was a very friendly affair, plenty of junk and not too crowded. Did I hear somebody ask where the devil is Lumley Castle? Thought so!! Just South of Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

(h) As the postal rates are still climbing, our Overseas members are costing the Society 55 NP per "MERCIURY" Three copies a year doesn't leave much from the annual subscription for Society expenses. I shall have to increase the overseas members when the next postal increases become effective.

(j) Should there be any correction required to your "MERCURY" envelope label and this includes your postal code - please let me know.

(k) Subscriptions are due again in January - should you wish to have a receipt, please send me your membership card.

(l) HQ had an unexpected pleasure on 15/16 October when W1HWO Ben and WB1AEO Lois (his XYL) called to see G4RS. It was more a pleasure as Ben and Lois had heard of the Society through MARS and it was nice to realise that we are famous! G4EMX put on his instructors hat and gave of his best as well as a detailed resume of the G repeater system. Ben and Lois stayed the night in Richmond and were most impressed with the antiquity of the place.

(m) I am sure that many of you have heard of the various Laws that control our hobby Kirchoff, Faraday etc. You probably will have been troubled by another one - Sodd's Law. The following is an amusing definition of his most unarming law - please take with a large pinch of salt!!.

Sodd's Law or its well known counterpart Murphy's Law can be stated mathematically as 1+1=2, where the symbol = means hardly ever. For the interested reader, here are a few of the developments on the basic law:
Although the general Law is well known, applications of the special Laws are not so well documented. To rectify that deficiency, the following examples are given.

1. If anything can go wrong, it will during the demonstration.
2. All warranty and guarantee clauses become void on payment of invoice.
3. Firmness of delivery dates is inversely proportional to the tightness of the schedule.
4. Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight.
5. An important instruction manual or operating manual will have been discarded by the Receiving Department.
6. In any given calculation the figure that is most obviously correct will be the source of error.
7. In production engineering, wires cut to a specified length will be too short.
8. The availability of a component is inversely proportional to the need for that component.
9. If a project requires X number of components, there will be X-1 in stock.
10. A dropped tool will land where it will do the most damage (also known as the Law of Selective Gravitation).

There are some more but I'll hold them over for another time. Serials 1 and 7 gave me a laugh!

(n) And so to the end - to the many members who have written to Kit or myself during the year, thank you very much for your interest and advice. It really does give us a great fillip to hear from you. To those of you who haven't thank goodness you are satisfied.

From us all at HQ the compliments of the Season and Good Luck - Good Health to you all during 1980


73

G3EKL

"SIGNALS NETS" or Where you might find them!

ALL TIMES are UK CLOCK TIMES except the 20 metre Overseas Nets which are in GMT.

ALL FREQUENCIES are PLUS or MINUS the QRG shown - search boldly and carefully!

L.F. NETS

SUNDAY	1100	3720 or 7075 kHz	Controlled Natter Net.
MONDAY	1300	7075 or 3740 kHz	Natter Group for approximately 15-30 minutes
TUESDAY	1900	3740 kHz	CONTROLLED NET
THURSDAY	1900	3740 kHz	CONTROLLED NET
SATURDAY	1100	7075 kHz	CONTROLLED NET.

L.F. NETS

SUNDAY	1000	3565 or 3526 kHz	European natter net
WEDNESDAY	1930	Prim 3565 kHz Sec 3526 kHz	CONTROLLED NET: Net terminates at 2115 exactly and re-opens at 2200 on TOP BAND.
	2200	Prim 1823 kHz	This net is again CONTROLLED.

HIGH FREQUENCY NETS PHONE

WEDNESDAY	1300 GMT	14130 kHz with an alternative 14275 kHz	Though primarily a CONTROLLED NET the UK controller usually requires an overseas station to assume co-control, if more than 2 overseas stations join in.
DAILY	1230 GMT	21175 Khz ±	

When conditions permit, members are encouraged to use the following HIGH FREQUENCIES in addition to those above:

14065, 21065, 21375, 28065 and 28450 kHz.

OTHER FREQUENCIES AND MODES

RTTY	3590 & 14090 kHz.	Use 170 Hz shift and 45·5 Bauds.
SLOW SCAN	Please notify activity to Headquarters for publication.	

VHF FREQUENCIES

RSARS SPOT CHANNELS are 70·22 and 144·22 MHz And 145·55 MHz (S22)	Please notify locally arranged nets for Mercury publication.

ACTIVITY SUNDAY

"Activity Sunday", is the Sunday of the second full weekend in every month. Please make an extra effort to contact our Overseas members - use listed frequencies and call on the hour when propagation is suitable.

SLOW MORSE TRANSIMISSIONS - From G4RS each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 1900 Clock time on 3565 and 144·25 MHz (beaming NE or SE)

All modes .: Call 'CQ RSARS' or 'CQ ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY'. During a QSO sign 'G1ABC de G1DEF BT BOTH RSARS K' or 'ONØNO de G1GHI BT RSARS K'. DO NOT join 'RSARS' to your call-sign in any way (i.e. G1JKL/RSARS) as in Great Britain this is illegal under Home Office Regulations.

Do not wait for the above nets to form - find the nearest clear frequency and call 'CQ RSARS'. Please do not call CQ on the CW LF controlled nets as there is always a control station around to bring you in. Always book IN and OUT of controlled nets. Pass all details for awards and contests unassisted.