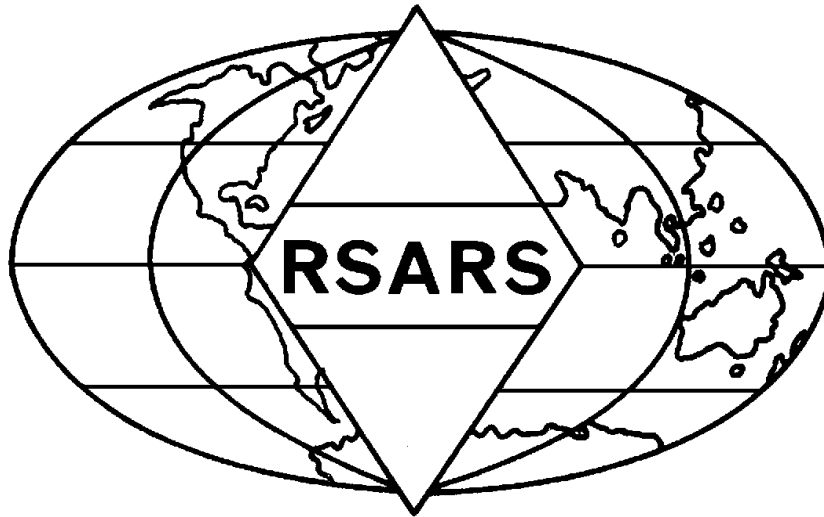


# MERCURY



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(The story so far... Allan, of The Royal Canadian Air Force at the time, was shot down over Chartres, France in July 1944. He managed to contact the French Underground where he was interrogated due to it being suspected that the Gestapo had infiltrated an agent into the Underground Organisation dressed as a RCAF flyer. His identity was verified by "Ginette", a Colonel Buckmaster agent in the area, after radio contact with London. Transported to Paris by the Resistance but was intercepted by the Gestapo in Paris and transferred to Fresnes prison. Now read on.)

Early in August the Allied armies were advancing in Europe and the Gestapo decided to evacuate Fresnes prison and ship the whole lot of prisoners to Germany. I don't recollect the number involved but it was in the region of 1,500 and included 300 women. The group of Allied airmen were, of course, caught up in the turmoil. Normally we would have been taken out in small groups and transported to the interrogation centre in Frankfurt but now we were just a few of many, who included criminals, Resistance workers, agents and all kinds of bods. Escape at that moment was impossible for, when the day came, we were herded out of the prison under guard and put into trucks and buses. My lot was a truck and I soon found myself on my way to the Paris railway yards.

When we arrived at the railway yards we were put into cattle cars, the kind that the French had somehow designed for 40 men and 8 horses. The Germans had other ideas and put 70 of us into each car.

I never liked railway yards, especially at night when one could expect air raids. Our car consisted of a number of French and Allied airmen and one can in the corner for all toilet purposes. Everyone had a bad attack of the "trots" after the fare at Fresnes prison and the one can soon outlived its usefulness!! There was one little Frenchman who monopolised the facility. He had a large red behind and when he went it seemed that all the other Frenchmen followed. It was like a red marker flare on a bombing run!.

The French Red Cross were active and were moving up and down the train with parcels of goodies and water - they had no fear of the Germans and they did their job well; in fact, it was at times hard to pick them out from the prisoners. We stayed locked in the cars until early morning - the heat during the night was unbearable and the only air came in via a small barred window. One or two of our group passed out during the night but luckily we had a few sugar cubes which helped bring them round. Some of us were suffering from malnutrition and things were not getting any better. The Red Cross parcels did help, but they didn't go very far. I remember getting a piece of cake with nicotine baked into it.

Early the next morning the train started to move, and we were on our way to Germany. We hoped that the Resistance would blow the tracks; surely, we thought, someone must have known about the train's departure. I cannot recollect how many days we were in transit before the German border, but I will never forget them. One of our chaps who could speak German found out that we were going to a Concentration Camp for extermination and our situation appeared bad. We could only hope that the Resistance would rescue us before we hit the German border. One incident during that trip will always stick in my memory. A French boy on our car accidentally put his hand through the barred window. The guard riding on top of the car shot the boy through the hand. Immediately the train was stopped and guards rushed to our car and demanded to know who was shot. The boy, with the bleeding hand, was taken from the car and out into a field and shot. The guards came back, picked four of our group, gave them shovels, and made them bury the boy. I think this happened during our second night aboard the train, although, after all this time, I can't be sure. We had been told that any attempt to escape would result in the complete occupants of the car being shot. This, however, did not stop attempts at escape and, during one night the skipper of my aircraft and a Resistance chap from Paris by the name of Borrel, pulled up the floorboards of the car and escaped whilst the train was in motion. Both of them dropped on to the tracks and let the train pass over them. The third man to try - another Resistance chap - got caught in the attempt. He didn't realise the guards were now running alongside the cars and had heard the floorboards drop.

## THE PERILS OF AL - PART II - Contd.

All Hell then broke loose, the train was stopped and we were all pulled from the cars and lined up beside the tracks. We were to be shot on the spot, but apparently a German officer interceded and found that we were mostly so-called POW's. To deter further escape attempts they took away all our clothes and for a spell we were all naked, I can't remember now how long it was before our clothes were returned.

There was a whole train behind us and what went on in the other cars is anyone's guess. Incidentally, a current POW friend of mine Ed, Carter-Edwards was actually then in the next cattle truck.

Finally, we did come to a spot where the railway tracks had been blown, and we had to walk through the countryside to a point where another train was waiting. Again it was impossible to think of escape as we were under very heavy guard. I remember walking through one small village where every family had a front door left open to receive any escape artists. The guards were mean types heavily loaded with grenades and machine guns.

It seems we were not under way for very long and still in France when the train passed into a very long tunnel, and stopped right in the middle of it. We all thought that we were going to be gassed!. Apparently the end of the tunnel was blocked and it took some time to clear it and get us moving again. I was real shaky sitting there in the dark and hearing all the shouting going on outside.

To digress a little - we were given a body search and I had to get rid of a small compass that was sewn into the cuff of my civilian trousers. During this action I noticed on the floor of the car, of all things, a colour coded resistor. A clandestine radio must have been in the making - goodness knows where the rest of the parts were!.

By this time we were in Germany and hoping against hope that somehow we would be taken to a regular Prisoner of War Camp but it wasn't long before the train was shunted into a siding in front of the gates of Buchenwald Concentration Camp - but that is another story, which I hope to tell in Part III in the near future.

(To be continued)



## DID YOU KNOW....?

The magazine "Tit-Bits" was 100 years old in October 1981 and included a copy of the No. 1 edition with its regular issue. From the copy of No. 1 we extracted the following (with due acknowledgements).

In 1885 the magazine offered a 7-roomed house as a prize in a magazine competition (probably the most valuable prize ever offered to that date). It was won by Private William Robert Mellish of the 8th Hussars.

Also from an edition of 1881 comes the following : The microphone is a new discovery, a simple one, for magnifying sound. This purpose is accomplished by the agency of electricity. The results already attained are very marvellous. The discoverer is an Englishman, Professor Hughes, who is the Inventor of the type-printing telegraph. By means of the microphone, we are told, "the beating of a pulse, the ticking of a watch or the tramp of a fly can be heard at least a hundred miles distant from the source of the sound".

In 1890 a "Secretaries Tit-Bits" was published - It was printed in Shorthand!!!.

One could also buy Dr. Carter-Moffat's Energising Featherweight Electric Body Belt ("As used by HM the Queen. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Churchill, etc.") cost the equivalent of 27-1/2 pence and cured "indigestion, constipation, melancholia, epilepsy, paralysis, gout, rheumatism, sciatica, stomach distension, brain overwork, spinal weakness, etc. (but not QRM? - Ed.).

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Looking through the computer lists recently it became apparent that a number of members share the same surname. Some examples include Blake (3), Brown (13), Butler (6), Cater (3), Chambers (4), Chapman (3), Clark(e)(9), Cole (3), Collins (4), Cook(e)(7), Cooper (5), Cox (6), Davies (4), Davis (3), Douglas (3), Ellis (4), Evans (7), Ford (5), Foster (3), Francis (5), Graham (5), Greenwood (3), Hall (5), Hamilton (3), Harding (4), Harrison (5), Harvey (3), Heath (3), Heaton (4), Hughes (3), James (3), Jenkins (3), Johnson (5), Jones (5), King (4), Lawrence (5), Lee (4), Lewis (3), Lloyd (3), Milne (3), Morgan (3), Morrison (4), Oliver (3), Owen(s)(6), Parker (3), Parsons (3), Pearson (3), Philips (3), Poole (3), Porter (3), Richardson (3), Roberts (7), Robinson (7), Rose (5), Rowland(s)(4), Russell (4), Scott (4), Simpson (4), Smart (3), Smith (21), Spencer (3), Stevenson (3), Taylor (15), Thomas (7), Thompson (5), Tucker (4), Turner (6), Walker (4), Ward (6), Watson (4), Watts (3), Webb (3), Webster (3), White (7) Wilkins (3), Williams (14), Wilson (9), Wood (3), Wright (5) and Young (4).

From the above it will be apparent HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR MEMBERS TO QUOTE THEIR RSARS NUMBER AND/OR CALL-SIGN WHEN WRITING TO OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

////////////////////////////////////

#### TOP BAND CW NET REPORT.

FRANK G5BM/0956.

30 September to 9 December 1981.

I regret that this report is for a shorter period than usual due to the fact that I had to give up the Net Controller's job quite suddenly after the Net of 9 December due to the serious illness of my wife.

Norman, G3GZG and Doug., G3KLX, kindly offered to take over the Net Controller's duties between them until a new regular volunteer can be appointed. Other members of the Net will also assist when necessary.

I would like to thank them and all other members of the Net who have made my "reign" so enjoyable over the 2-1/2 year period.

Activity was at a fairly low level during the first part of the period with 5 to 6 stations participating most weeks.

However, It suddenly picked up after the delivery of "Mercury" in November and on 25 November and 2 December we had attendances of 11 members.

The following members were active during the period:

G2BTO G2HLL G2RJ

G3ADZ G3AMR G3BGM G3CWW G3GJH G3GZG G3IFF G3KLX G3LNC G3PGM G3RKN  
G3UPY G3XUG G3YSK G3HWK (RNARS - and very welcome)

G4BHX G4JIO

G8QZ

Foreign stations calling into the Net included: EA2IA. DL6OH and OL1AYV.

(On behalf of all readers, Net participants or not, may we wish a speedy and complete recovery to Mrs G5BM and thank her, and all the other tolerant XYLS, for the services rendered to members by officials such as Frank, G5BM. - Ed.)

////////////////////////////////////

#### THANK-YOU DEPARTMENT.

The Council would like to thank the following members who have so generously forwarded donations to the Society. Take a look at the value of the stamps on the envelope that brought "Mercury" and you'll see why we are so appreciative!!.

0053 0090 0299 0613 0614 0861 0883 1018 1045 1047 1061 1053 0988 1173 1185 1235 1274  
1286 1320 1351 1436 1441 1497 1551 1612 1620 1626 1684 1885 1704 1961.

VE8RCS - THE MOST NORTHERLY AMATEUR RADIO STATION IN THE WORLD.  
G5BM/0956.

On December 23rd 1981, I was tuning between 14.100 and 14.200 MHz looking for ZL SSB stations when I heard VE8RCS calling "CQ G".

I called him, not really expecting a reply as my 265 feet end fed (Top Band) antenna puts out its major lobes off the ends into South America and the Far East when used on 14, 21 and 28 MHz.

I was surprised when he came back and gave me S8, which was the same strength as his signal. A most enjoyable QSO lasting from 09:10 to 09:52 hours GMT ensued.

VE8RCS is the call-sign of The Polar Amateur Radio Club of The Royal Canadian Signals located at Alert on the north-east coast of Ellesmere Island in the North West Territories. It is only 90 miles from the north west coast of Greenland and 450 miles from the North Pole.

The operator to whom I spoke was Paul Broadbent. His home QTH is in Ottawa and when on leave he operates from the Club station VE3VCS.

The equipment at VE8RCS consists of a Yaesu FT-901-DM driving a 300 Watt Linear Amplifier. The antennas consist of a TH6DXX tri-band beam for 10, 15 and 20 Metres and sloping dipoles for 40 and 80 Metres.

Paul told me that there are 20 operators at the Base of whom 17 are "hams". They operate a daily 'phone patch to various parts of Canada from 13:30 hours GMT to 03:00 hours GMT daily on 14.165 MHz. They will accept calls from hams outside the Net when traffic is light. Incidentally, the local time at Alert is GMT minus 4 hours.

The weather there in winter is, of course, extremely cold. However, a day or two before the QSO a warm spell commenced and the outside temperature had risen to minus 21 degrees Centigrade.

In that part of the world they are experiencing 24 hours a day darkness currently. They last had some daylight in mid-October and will not see the sun again until towards the end of March.

After a general chat I started my sales presentation for the RSARS, hoping that we may gain at least one member at the Base. Paul immediately showed considerable interest and requested that I arrange for a copy of "Mercury" and a small supply of application forms to be sent to the President of The Polar Amateur Radio Society at Alert.

He also offered to send details of RSARS to their other stations and thought that we may pick up some additional members amongst them. I am accordingly sending the necessary request and mailing details to Catterick.

Their other stations are as follows:

VO1RCS - Gander Newfoundland.

VE3RCS - Kingston, Ontario.

VE6RCL - Cold Lake, Alberta.

VE6RCS - Calgary, Alberta.

VE8CFS - Inuvik, Mackenzie Delta, North West Territories, (near Alaskan north-east border)

I gave Paul details of our DX Nets on 21.170 MHz and 21.130 MHz, also our 80 Metre CW and SSB Nets. He said they would look out for us when shifts and conditions permitted.

Thus ended one of the best DX QSO's I have experienced in my 47 years as an amateur. A far cry from the rubber-stamp QSO's usually experienced from the more rare DX stations!.

~~~~~

HOW'S YOUR POSTAL CODE?.

Further to the Postal Code saga published in a recent "Mercury", G3DPS had a driving license reminder towards the end of last year. You've guessed it - it gave him yet another postal code!. The OWL adds that G4FHG when visited by the census people was not only at the wrong number but in a street that no longer existed!.

~~~~~



ALL MEMBERS ARE HEREBY INVITED TO LISTEN FOR, CALL AND CONTACT THE SPECIAL EVENT STATION BEING SET UP BY BILL WYNN G4EUQ WHO IS RSARS 0055 TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS. THE STATION WILL BE AT THE ARMY AIR CORPS STATION AT MIDDLE WALLOP, HAMPSHIRE.

WHY NOT DROP IN AND VISIT THE EVENT (AND MAYBE GIVE BILL AND HIS HELPERS A HAND!).  
A TALK-IN STATION WILL BE OPERATIONAL ON 2 METRES ON THE PUBLIC DAYS.

DATES : 23RD. 24TH AND 25TH JULY 1982. (PUBLIC DAYS 24TH and 25TH).

P. JOHNSON/RSARS 1626.

Sandes Home remains, where we received a cordial welcome and had a friendly reminiscence over a cup of tea - sadly, the future of Sandes Home is very much in the balance. The well-preserved G.P.O. remains, with its smart exterior.

A visit, unscheduled (for which I apologise), was made to Vimy Lines and an enquiry at the Gatehouse/Guardroom revealed that G3EKL was the Duty Officer for the day. Nevertheless, Major Webb was able to see me and I welcomed the opportunity to meet him and chat with him.

Perhaps I should also mention that I walked down to the Garrison Church but, unfortunately, could not gain entry.

My visit proved a most pleasant re-experience - one that I might well re-live at the next RSARS AGM. Incidentally, the "Jimmy" that I purchased occupies a predominate spot in my "shack" - a reminder of the Society's excellent camaraderie.

(Whether you remember Catterick or not, why not decide NOW to pay RSARS HQ a visit during the 1982 Annual General Meeting. Remember, it's also Old Comrade's Week-end, so lots to see and do, and lots of RSARS members (and their wives) to meet. See details elsewhere in this issue).

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH SPECIAL SIGNALS 1939 - 1945 - PART III.  
G3BGM/1539.

(Part I was published in "Mercury" No. 69 of 7/81 and Part II in No. 70 of 11/81).

As I have already mentioned, the cracking of "Enigma" was a well kept secret and the Germans continued to use it for high-grade messages until the end. But something happened just after the occupation of Brussels and Paris to show the Germans that we were reading their low-grade ciphers and had reconstructed their call-books. For suddenly these were all changed and "Rasterschlüssel" (a sort of crossword puzzle cipher) introduced. It was little consolation that it confused them almost as much as it confused us!. My section proceeded with Advance HQ 30 Corps to NIJMEGEN, where a number of extraordinary things happened in a short space of time. As people like the late Airey Neave have written about them, there seems no reason why my version, slightly doctored so as not to hurt the reputations of the living, should not be published. Any high-ups reading this might like to check whether these happenings were mentioned in their respective war diaries, or if not, why not!.

(a) Before leaving HECHTEL on the Belgian frontier we were approached by the CSO 30 Corps asking us to find and contact any stations of 1st Airborne Division. Apparently there had been a mess-up about the Signal plans before leaving England. Anyway we found the main group of survivors, took several messages in clear from them and handed over to 30 Corps. Ironically, we used our German 80 Watt sender to get through.

(b) Soon after arriving at NIJMEGEN we were put in touch with the Chief Engineer of the power station, just south and west of the bridge. He was a pre-war Dutch "ham" and claimed to have a network of "hams" QRV around ARNHEM and further south as far as APELDOORN. Could we provide him with a set to get in touch with them?. What he did not tell us was that he had a home-brew set in his attic at home. Cpl. "Blocker" Wood, who was a bit of a ladies' man, found this out from his XYL. He was also in touch through the normal Siemens control carrier system with power engineers in North Holland and even at CLEVES in Germany. We installed an HRO and TX in the basement of NIJMEGEN power station and answered back if any of the network came up. A Dutch speaker was attached to monitor anything our friend said over the control net to the other side. Airey Neave took over from us later and what happened eventually I do not know. Frankly, I ended by not trusting the set-up. The Dutch "ham" belonged to an association of former officers in colonial Indonesia and seemed more interested in stopping the spread of Communism in Holland than in furthering the Allied cause. Some years later when I happened to be with my wife visiting the graves at ARNHEM we called at the power station, but he declined to see me, which is an odd way for straightforward "hams" to treat each other.

(c) When it appeared that the forces on ARNHEM bridge were not going to be relieved and that a rescue operation was all that was possible. I was sent for by General Browning, who asked me to get in touch with the other side and send a proposal for the exchange of wounded prisoners. As I have already said we had lost touch with our call-sign sequences and were reading little traffic. We D/Fed the loudest network which appeared to emanate from ARNHEM station and got in touch, using the call "BRI". They immediately responded and we passed a message in German from the Divisional Commander. Half an hour later we got a reply in German from the "Commanding General", so we had scored a bull!! It was a polite brush-off and went on by asking us to stop shelling the "hospital train" standing in ARNHEM station "which was clearly marked overall with red crosses". I have often wondered about this; perhaps a survivor from ARNHEM can clear it up.

But this was not the end of the affair. The German operators, who of course had used the link-call "BRI" to us, kept us on hourly QRX for 24 hours. It would be interesting to find the story behind this; I know that at least one of the high-ups who successfully opposed us at ARNHEM was later involved in the plot to get rid of Hitler and make terms with the Western Allies, and, in any imagination, I think that if only Churchill had been informed of this ad hoc link with the enemy command, in time, perhaps the war could have been shortened by several months.

(d) While all these unscheduled activities were going on. 110 Section was in Advanced Corps

### SOME EXPERIENCES WITH SPECIAL SIGNALS - 1939 - 1945 - Contd.

Headquarters area SE of NIJMEGEN. As no low-grade traffic was available we put a small detachment in the upper story of a restaurant on the top of a wooded hill near OSTERBEEK, just inside the shadowy front line separating elements of 101 Airborne Division from the Germans, and overlooking both the route that 30 Corps had come up and the REICHWALD. We picked up two or three VHF groups using the unmistakable chirpy but stable Torn Fu b sets. One station was of particular interest; it was reporting back to a base station which we could not receive, and strangely using a call-sign sequence reserved for the police, from the now out-of-date call-book. The traffic which was in clear was even more interesting as it referred to an 88-mm gun shooting up British vehicles and tanks on the causeway up which 30 Corps had advanced. Students of the ARNHEM operation might remember that just at the time when the Guards Armoured Division should have gone on to try to relieve our airborne forces which had captured the north side of ARNHEM bridge, a large part of them were diverted back down the way they had come to cope with a threat to our L. of C., incidentally causing chaos and confusion as tank transporters proceeded in the dark down the narrow road, heavily ditched on either side, while B Echelon vehicles were still coming up the other way. In my humble view 30 Corps got in an unnecessary "flap" at the prospect of the road behind them being cut for a day or two, and ignored the fact that seasoned troops always carry with them several days more rations and ammunition than they will admit to. From the evidence at our disposal the obstruction was never more than a handful of brave men exploiting a successful position. The fact that they were using an obsolete Torn Fu b as their main operational link argues that they were a small ad hoc formation. I have never seen any evidence in the official histories of the operation to disprove this; there is a smell of cover-up in high places. Whoever they were, those Germans deserved Iron Crosses for the chaos and confusion they caused. I would go further and produce a theory for the over-reaction by 30 corps based on a similar but much larger scale episode in the Russian campaign, mentioned by Read and Fisher in their book on "Operation Lucy". Basically we had been feeding ULTRA (ENIGMA cracks) information to the Russians all the war through "Lucy" in Switzerland, in order to disguise its origin. As it was so accurate they became reliant on it and when, after STALINGRAD, Hitler temporarily climbed down from directing the campaign and handed over to General Manstein, less was discussed over the air and "Lucy" dried up. The Russians were caught on the hop and badly beaten at KHARKOV. Hitler resumed command, the orders and counter-orders started flowing again, and by the eve of the battle of KURSK (the greatest tank battle in history) the Russians again had a complete Order of Battle of the German forces, provided by ULTRA via "Lucy". The same thing may have happened to us around the time of the battle of ARNHEM. Our top brass may have become too dependent on ULTRA information for decision-making as appears to have happened to the Russians before KHARKOV, and made faulty decisions when deprived of it.

After the ARNHEM affair and the drying up of low-grade information, my section was once again lent to the Americans. We erected three HF and two LF Adcocks in Luxembourg and Alsace, and concentrated on receiving and DF'ing the remaining high-grade links of the German command structure, which appeared to come from a bunker near GIESSEN. There was one more personal excitement however. During the confused days of the final German attempt to break out through the ARDENNES, when English-speaking "heavies" of the Brandenburg Division were swanning around the American rear in the winter fog, my Jeep driver and I were arrested by a road patrol of trigger-happy GI's. who suspected our strange accents and uniforms. I think we owe our lives to the fact that my driver, who was more Americanised than me, was able to answer promptly the question "What is a T.S. tag, and why?". Could you dear OMs???

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all the men who made it possible for the boffins in Blighty to do their work so well. On Active Service in the desert and in Europe, they worked a three watch system night and day for months on end, picking out faint signals through all sorts of QRM and QRN, often from our own more powerful and active networks. Often the best in the set

rooms were too valuable to get promotion. Their traffic, recorded in duplicate or triplicate on special red pads and log sheets, was always in beautiful copper-plate handwriting which one never sees these days. Some of them went grey in the service, though they were all young men in their twenties when they started. Many originally were Post Office sorters. Nothing was too much trouble for them; there were no demarcation problems, and often they became expert cipher clerks and code crackers in their spare time. For the past twenty-five years I have been teaching their descendants, and I must confess, they don't often come like that now.



OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET

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WANTED - By P. Brown, G4EYP/RSARS 1389. 1 Ronaldshay Drive, Richmond, North Yorkshire,  
DL10 5BN : A V.F.O. for a KWM-2A.

FOR SALE - By R. ("Dick") Winters, G3NVK/0138, 32 Redwood Avenue, Melton Mowbray,  
Leicestershire. LE13 1TZ :  
FDK Multi Mode 2700 Mk. II 2 Metre Transceiver, 15 Watt. FM/AM/SSB/CW/OSCAR.  
AC Mains or 13.8V DC. AC/DC leads. Microphone. Key Lead.  
VFO/Synthesiser/Auto Tone Burst/Repeater Shift.  
SWR/POWER Meter - REASE 50/144/430 MHz.  
PACKER 2 Metre ATU  
5-Element Yagi, long feeder and 14-foot self-supporting wooden mast.  
7/8 Whip plus Mag-Mount plus feeder.  
1/4 Whip for same Mag-Mount.  
30 Watt Dummy Load.  
£375 THE LOT. NO SPLIT.  
DELIVERY FREE FOR 50 MILES.

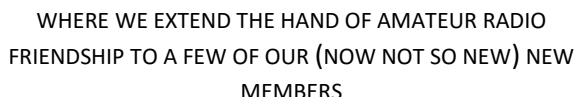
**FOR SALE** - One Mobile Safety Microphone. MM-202-S. Two years old but In good condition. PTT on gear stick with mic on sun visor. Normal price £32.Yours for £10. One Infra-red Mobile Microphone System. One M9 Mic., One RM-940 Controller. Two S-9 Sensors. One year old but again in good nick. No rip off. Normal price £45. Yours for £15. Seller will pay P &P in both above cases.

Contact 289 Sgt. Wall, Radio Troop, 3 Squadron, 14 Signal Regiment (EW), BFPO 23. Or ring 05141 36569.

Opportunity to obtain a DRK Morse Keyboard at £140 incl.; a U.S. "Ham-Key" dual lever paddle at £17 incl.; same paddle without base £13 incl.; all fully guaranteed. \*\*\* These prices are approx. 30% off list! Send SAE for full details, \*\*\*. DALES KEYCODE, 6 Normanby Road, Northallerton, North Yorks.. DL7 8RW.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET - OPEN MARKET



RSARS 1565 \* LIEUT. COL. (RTD) \* WILLIAM A. GUEST \*G4IYB \* NIL \* 21 Hill Rise, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0AL \* Thames Valley Amateur Radio Transmitters Society C.T.O. Veterans Association \* 3rd February 1932 - as 2313397 Operator Signals (Air Squadron Signals Section SR), Lineman C in 33 Construction Section, Operator Wireless and Line and Operator Keyboard and Line in L. of C. Signals SR. 1 August 1939 A.A. Militia Training Battalion Royal Signals as Lance Sergeant Instructor. 11 September 1939 - as Sergeant with 48 Tele Operating Section with L. of C. Signals British Expeditionary force. 12 December 1939 - as 105857 2nd Lieutenant L. of C. Signals, B.E.F. and 1 Air Formation Signals B.E.F. 1 March 1941 - as Captain with 1 Air Formation Signals. 26 January 1942 - Major with 6 Air Formation Signals Paiforce and 3 Air Formation Signals M.E.F. 27 July 1944 - Lieut. Colonel C.S.O. Force 438 M.E.F. ( British radar control in Turkey ). No. 1 Special Staff Middle East (XI). July 1946 - to 'W'

## WELCOME - Contd.

reserve. 27 October 1947 - Major with 11 A.A.(M) Signal Regiment TA (as 2 i/c). 23 July 1960 - Lieut. Col. (Hon) TARO. \* Mainly CW on the HF bands. \* Treasurer of the Central Telegraph Service Veterans Association. \* G4JG and G4CHT \*

RSARS 1566 \* NIL \* THOMAS ARNOLD BEIGHTON \* G4JVJ \* NIL \* 43 Tryon Close, Liden, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 6HG. \* Swindon and District Amateur Radio Club, R.S.G.B., P.O.H.Q.A.R.G. \* As Signaller and Lance-Corporal D116148 served with Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 5th Canadian Armoured Division Signals from spring 1941 until spring 1946. Prior to that service was a Gunner and Lance Bombardier with 10th Medium Battery Royal Canadian Artillery TA from 1939 until 1941. \* Originally licensed as G8REB and later as G4JVJ. Running a Trio TS-820-S to a trapped inverted dipole, a IC-240 for 2 metres FM and a IC-202-S for SSB and CW. \* Countryside walking and photography \* Any past or present members of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals \*

RSARS 1567 \* NIL \* PETER JOHN BROOM \* G5DQ \* NIL \* 7 Flamsteed Road, Cambridge, CB1 3QU. \* R.S.G.B., A1 Operators Club. Rag Chewers Club and 99 Rowing Club (not sure if that last one is correct, perhaps Peter will let us know. - Ed.) \* Served in the Suffolk Regiment from June 1940 until January 1941 then transferred to Royal Signals until June 1946. Served with 1st Depot Battalion. 1st O.T.B., 152 O.C.T.U.. 206 (Indep.) Infantry Brigade Signals Section, No.1 Wireless Group and Boys Company. \* Licensed 1937 \* Gardening and Reading \* Any old friends \*

RSARS 1568 \* NIL \* CYRIL BRYAN SIDNEY (but usually known as "Larry") SEAMAN \* G3ATF \* VS1EL, VS2EL \* "Mariners", Hele Lane, Frithelstock Stone, Torrington, Devon, EX38 8JW. \* R.S.G.B. (since 1936), North Devon Radio Society. GB3WW Repeater Group, North Devon Raynet, Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society \* May 1939 - September 1940 - Civilian Staff (CO) War Office, Whitehall. (F2(TA)). September 1940 - September 1946 - Flight Lieutenant R.A.F. No. 155951 as Aircrew Signals. September 1946 - March 1953 - Civilian Staff as CO at War Office Whitehall (F2, C4, WF). March 1953 - June 1956 - Command Secretariat HQ Malaya Command, Kuala Lumpur. June 1956 - March 1957 - Command Secretariat G.H.Q. FARELF Singapore. April 1957 - August 1968 - Civilian Staff (SEO, SCEO) War Office/War Department. London (C8, O & M (AD)). August 1968 - October 1974 Civilian Staff (S.P.) Ministry of Defence (MAN C3) (With particular responsibilities in respect of computers used by R.A.O.C. and for command and control purposes). \* Call-sign G3ATF held since 1946. Active on all HF bands (SSB, FM and CW) and on 144 MHz (SSB, FM and CW). Held calls of VS2EL AND VS1EL and operated AM and CW from Malaya and Singapore 1953 - 1957. Member of the North Devon Raynet Group and equipped for mobile operation on 144 MHz. \* Victorian railways, tape recording, radio and electronic equipment construction and servicing, gardening (when not avoidable!). \* NIL \*

RSARS 1569 \* NIL \* LESLIE JOHN AFFLECK \* RS 43766 \* NIL \* 67 Upper Farm Road, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 0QU. \* Kingston Amateur Radio Society, R.S.G.B., Guild of Veteran Motorists. \* Joined the Regular Army at Catterick in 1938 and joined 2 Division Signals ("crossed keys") with the B.E.F. in 1939. Came home via Dunkirk in 1940 and posted to India and Burma from 1942 until 1946. Served Kohima and Alfsea. Service with 2 Division continuous until demob. in 1946, then served 8 years with the reserve and 10 years with a civil defence unit as a Signal Master. \* Took RAE in December 1980 (and obtained call-sign G4MUD, (but member has since been shown as "archived" - Ed.). \* Model car collector, veteran cars. veteran transport, etc. \* Any members who may be ex-India/Burma Campaigns. DX, particularly Canada and the USA. \* NIL \*

RSARS 1570 \* CAPTAIN (RTD) \* DESMOND MAYSE DOWNING \* GI3ZX \* NIL \* Address withheld \* Member of RSGB since 1933 \* Served from 1941 until 1946 with 1 R.S.C., M.I. 5, M.I.6, M.I. 10. \* Obtained A.A. license in April 1934 and present call-sign issued 1st April 1937. Operation on SSB since 1948. \* Now a registered blind person so only other hobby apart from Amateur Radio is organ playing \* Previous colleagues in War-time Signals Intelligence \* NIL \*

### WELCOME - Contd.

RSARS 1571 \* NIL \* MALCOLM TREVOR LEE \* VK3VFF \* VK3VQR. VCK 483 (VHF) \* 7 Bundeena Avenue, Keysborough, Victoria. 3173, Australia \* Omega Radio Club, Australian Air League \* Joined Royal Signals at Bourlon Lines Catterick Camp as a regular on 10th April 1952. Trained as an Operator Wireless and Line B III then left for the Depot Regiment at Denbury, Newton Abbot in South Devon. Attached to 26 Field Regiment R.A. at Genefa MELF, Highland Light Infantry and the Border Regiment at Tel-A-Kabir and 3rd Guards Brigade as well as 3 L.O.F. Moascar MELF. Demobbed 4th February 1955. 4 years reserve service. Service number: 22799727.\* VK3VFF and VK3VQR held. Also CB VCK 483 on VHF \* Australian Air League with rank of Squadron Lieutenant. OC Squadron and Radio and First Aid Training Officer \* NIL \* NIL \*

RSARS 1572 \* NIL \* ELLIS WILLIAM JAMES WATTS \* VK2DDW \* NIL \* 2 Esdaile Place, Arncliffe, New South Wales, 2205, Australia. \* St. George Amateur Radio Society \* Served with 6 Division Signals, Australian Imperial Force from 1940 until 1942 and was discharged in 1943 \* NIL \* NIL \* NIL \*

RSARS 1573 \* NIL \* DAVID H. ELLIOTT \* NIL \* NIL \* 55 Grafton Street, Greystanes, New South Wales, 2145, Australia \* NIL \* 10/43 - 3/48 Training Brigade Catterick Camp and Northern Command Signal Regiment at York, 3/48 - 3/51 - 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment Far East, 3/51 - 4/57 - 4 A.A. Signals UK and 3 Division Signals UK, 4/57 - 4/60 - Hong Kong Signal Regiment Far East, 4/60 - 8/61 War Office Signals UK, 8/61 - 1/65 - 28 Signal Regiment BAOR, 1/65 - 2/67 - Training Brigade at Catterick, 2/67 - 9/67 - 24 Brigade Signals Middle East, 9/67 - 5/69 - 24 Brigade Signals in UK, \* Have facilities for RTTY, phone and CW \* NIL \* NIL \* NIL \*

RSARS 1574 \* NIL \* ROBERT CHARLES PAGE \* VK2YOW \* VK2VTH \* P.O. Box 625, Moree, New South Wales, 2400, Australia \* Wireless Institute of Australia, Institute of Radio Engineers (Australia) \* 1937 - 1940 1 Cavalry Division Signals, Royal Australian Corps of Signals as Sergeant. 1940 - attested and enlisted Australian Imperial Force in 1st Mechanised Cavalry Squadron, 1 Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Cavalry Squadron, all A.I.F. Australian Instructional Corps. Qualified in all infantry subjects. 1942 - posted to 1 Cavalry Training Squadron, 1 Australian Armoured Corps Training Regiment. 1942 - 1943 - on active service with Australian Military Forces. 1943 - discharged as permanently medically unfit. 1943 - 1945 - employed with the Department of the Army. Service rank S/Sgt. and service numbers 62424, 72265 and 1039. 1975 - T.P.I. Soldier C.X. 54573. \* Interested in radio since 1937. Treasurer and previously Secretary of Moree and District Radio Club, also Publicity Officer for same club, a member of the W.I.A. Courses attended : Eastern Command School of Signals (distinguished pass), Tank Wireless Wing, Armoured Fighting Vehicle School, Puckapunyal (pass), Civil Defence Controllers Course No. 14. Australian Institute of Management - Sales Management. \* Carpentry, Metalwork, Civil Engineering, Gardening, Administration. \* Equipment in use: Kenwood TS-520-S, 7200-G (2 Metres). Yaesu FT-7, Power supplies Homebuilt. Antennas: G5RV dipole, TH-3 beam, 2 x 5-element beams for 2 metres, vertical for 28 MHz. \* UK Amateur Operators \* NIL \* (the OWL informs us that Bob's QSL card shows a Mounted Colour Party of Australian Light Horsemen carrying both Military and National Colours - Ed).

RSARS 1575 \* NIL \* ROGER EDWARD CORDUKES \* VK4CD \* NIL \* 7 Saderra Court, Kirwan, Townsville, Queensland, 4814. Australia \* Townsville Amateur Radio Club, 1 Commando Association, Australian College of Education, Australian Union of Senior Swimmers International \* Joined 1 R.N.S.W.R. (Commando) in 1959 (A C.M.F. Unit) with Regimental number of 2243213. Served until 1962 and attained NCO Rank of Sergeant, received Green Beret in 1960. Completed Signals Course and served in Signals Section for approximately 12 months. Returned to "C" Company and completed two NCO Courses. \* Received first call-sign VK4NVI in 1979. Completed requirements for full call-sign in 1980 and received VK4CD. \* Fishing, Swimming, Squash. \* Other members of RSARS and members of 1 commando Association \* NIL \*.

### WELCOME - Contd.

RSARS 1576 \* NIL \* COLIN POTTER \* VK4NUW \* NIL \* 98 Hume Street, Toowoomba, Queensland, 4350, Australia. \* Wireless Institute of Australia, Darling Downs Radio Club, Returned Services League of Australia \* 3-8-56 - Enlisted Royal Australian Corps of Signals. 8-9-56 - Posted to School of Signals, Balcombe, Victoria. ?-1-57 101 - Wireless Regiment, Cabarlah, Queensland. ?-?-59 School of Signals, Balcombe, Victoria. 23-1-62 - Division Signal Regiment, Ingleburn, New South Wales. ?-?-64 - 7 Signal Regiment, Cabarlah, Queensland. 23-8-67 - 121 Signal Squadron Singapore. 19-8-69 - 7 Signal Regiment, Cabarlah, Queensland. 2-2-71 - 547 Signal Troop, Nui Dat, Vietnam. 4-2-72 - 7 Signal Regiment. 23-81-72 - 6 Signal Regiment, Melbourne, Victoria. 23-4-75 - 7 Signal Regiment. 4-8-76 - Discharged to Retirement. \* Obtained Novice License VK4NUW 3 April 1979. Convenor of Darling Downs Radio Club Net. \* Returned Services League of Australia and own business (Pest Control) \* All Amateurs in any Country \* NIL \*.

RSARS 1577 \* NIL \* ERIC BRIGHT \* NIL \* 2 Heathcote Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwicks, CV31 2NF \* NIL \* Older members may well remember Eric who used to be RSARS 0161 when he was serving with the Royal Engineers at Ripon. He also held the Regimental Club call. We hope that Eric can become as active as he previously was and can meet a lot of new members \*.

RSARS 1578 \* SIGNALMAN \* Fernando Ricardo Pinto Dos Santos \* NIL \* 2 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment, Vimy Lines, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. \* NIL \* 1 J.L.B. Shorncliffe (2nd Queens) 11-09-78 - 11-08-79. 11th Signal Regiment Catterick 3-09-79 - 16-10-80. 224 Signal Squadron 16-10-80 - 5-09-81 \* Most sports, Telegraphy, Shooting \* NIL \*.

RSARS 1579 \* NIL \* BARRY FRANCIS FORD \* VK6NIJ \* VK6ZFK, G8AUV \* 6 Strelley Drive, Goldsworthy, Western Australia, 6723, Australia \* Wireless Institute of Australia, North West Radio Society \* Served as 23462578 Corporal Ford F.B. 1965-1966 - 11 Signal Regiment and 8 Signal Regiment at Catterick. 1965 - 1966 - 237 Signal Squadron Singapore. 1969 - School of Signals Blandford Camp, Dorset. 1969 - 1971 - 19 Signal Regiment Singapore. 1971 - 11 Signal Regiment Catterick, discharged from 2 Squadron. \* Passed RAE at Catterick Education Centre in 1966 and obtained call-sign G8AUV. First member of RSARS in 1965. Issued with Australian reciprocal call-sign VK6ZFK in 1979 and VK6NIJ in 1980. \* Fishing, Shooting, Electronics \* Any member of the Catterick Amateur Radio Club (G3CIO) from the years 1965/66 such as John Worth (G8AUR) (later G3ZKA and since then an "archived" member - the OWL) \* NIL \* . (The OWL also mentioned that Barry's old RSARS number was 0419 - Ed.).

RSARS 1580 \* NIL \* GERALD BENNETT \* VK2PDM \* NIL \* P.O. Box 40, Bombala, New South Wales, 2553, Australia \* NIL \* Served as Sergeant 7588317 and B II Operator in Madagascar, India, Middle East, North West Europe, Italy, Paiforce, Rhine Army, School of Infantry, etc., also with 13th Infantry Brigade (5th division) "Phantom", 8th Army, War Office Wireless Service. Served from 1939 - 1948 \* A recent recruit to the amateur radio ranks. Is a Principal of a local school and has rig installed there hoping to interest some of the children \* Languages (Italian and French spoken). Outdoor Activities: Nordic Skiing, Walking, Camping, Fossiling, Music (play flute) and Reading. \* Other teachers, schools using Amateur Radio, any Rag-chewers who share my interests, any nationality. \* NIL \*.

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### RAYNET LIMITED.

Members may have seen the above Company mentioned in a recent edition of Radio Communication. The RSGB have pointed out in a letter to G3DPS that this Company was formed around May 1980 "as a means of giving some form of protection to the RSGB in respect of the word "RAYNET". As far as is known the Company has never traded". There is also another Company recently formed called "RSGB RAYNET LIMITED". It is unlikely that there are any directorship salaries payable.



BEING A SELECTION OF ALL OR PARTS OF LETTERS  
RECEIVED BY OFFICERS OF RSARS ON A VARIETY OF  
SUBJECTS

\*\*\*\*\* From Dady S. Major, VU2MD/0767, Petit Mansion,  
85 Sleater Road, BOMBAY, 400 007, India. "....."Mercury" No. 69 arrived a few days ago and, as usual,  
I enjoyed reading it, as they say "from cover to cover." I particularly liked "Idle thoughts on the old CW  
lark" G4BUS and agree that some operators have not cared to learn to send morse correctly. I speak  
from experience as a CW operator of over 50 years standing - I was a Marine Radio Operator way back  
in 1928. Even now I occasionally monitor Marine channels for weather reports and time signals and  
have noticed the growing tendency for operators to send the letter "b" instead of "de". Of course, six or  
more dots for the figure "5" and five or more dots for the letter "h", as also one dash-five dots for the  
figure "6" and five dots-one dash for the figure "4" are quite common. Running letters together,  
shortening the dashes and lengthening the dots are also on the increase as pointed out by Reg!. This  
occasionally happens when an operator tries to send too fast making it very difficult for the receiving  
operator to decipher. This incorrect use of morse jars on trained ears. Once you learn to send morse  
correctly it remains with you for all time. I have heard some amateurs boast that they learnt enough  
morse to enable them to get their tickets and now they have no more use for it. In this connection I  
would like to quote what Judge James Harvey Brown. W6VH, said (Society of Wireless Pioneers -  
Sparks Journal, Intercom (A) edition, 1981):

"Every radio amateur should acquire proficiency. We never know when we'll need it. The knowledge of code has always been a matter of pride to amateurs - a sort of glue binding us all together".

Some of our members have even suggested that amateurs be asked to produce proof of having worked a specified number of stations on CW in a calendar year at the time of renewal of their licences but I am not in favour of this proviso since amateur radio is a hobby and we should not compel anyone to work a specified number of stations on CW - we must leave it to the good sense of the amateurs to occasionally work CW to keep in practice.

I like the CW mode the best although I have nothing against other modes if other amateurs prefer to use them. Most of the time I use a "straight" key, but also use a "Vibroplex" when the occasion demands. Good rhythmic morse is a pleasure to send and listen to. It is not very difficult - the art can be acquired by concentration and diligent practice and the effort will bring its own reward. The "El-bug" may be good for the professional operators, I dare say that it requires skill and practice to operate it but good code, sent with a straight key, depends on the skill of the operator. It is more rewarding and satisfying.

Please tell Dennis that I am still trying for G3ADZ or any other RSARS/G. I am very anxious to establish 'G' contacts as I used to work G-stations quite comfortably about three years ago.

Here in India the rise in postage rates is unheard of in the long history of the Postal Department. Aerogramme post is up 68%. book-post by surface mail up by 73% and the rates for letter are even higher. In the past such increases never exceeded 10 to 25%.....". My very best wishes to all RSARS members and I trust that you all had a very happy Festive Season. 73 Dady. VU2MD.

From; Bill the Stores. G3DBU, 10 Hilltop Crescent, Harrogate, Yorks. ".....Am now going on to RTTY and have ordered an MM4000 and Thelma (the XYL) has bought me a portable mono television set for use as a VDU. Have also bought a FL-2 filter unit to sort out the co-channel boys. I am hoping to put a signal out on RTTY in the not too distant future.

We shall be losing Iain, G3VPM, on posting to warmer climes so Danny, G4KIC has taken over the club, John, G3FMW, is just too involved with computers to take it on at the moment..."

73 Bill G3DBU.

(The OWL reports that, during a visit to Harrogate to visit his grandfather, he learnt that Bill has successfully achieved the 500 worked on the Any Mode rung of the RSARS Awards ladder. Congratulations, Bill.).

### MAILBOX - Contd.

From: Ken, G4EEC/1176, Pipit Wood, Ockham Lane, Hatchford, COBHAM, Surrey, KT11 1LS. ".....If you do not consider the subject already flogged flat and also have an odd corner to fill, I have included a bit about the Pack Set and a few words on the Two-Band Quad recently published..... (See articles elsewhere. - Ed.). Have been having a lot of fun with the RSARS Net on "15" having found VK2NLE and his mates around about 21.170 MHz at about 1200Z. We had a splendid Net going a couple of days ago with VK, VE, LA and G all "on parade" and exchanging numbers..... Les (VK2NLE) sent me a couple of "JIMMY" and also a splendid copy of a map of Sydney so that I could see how things had changed. There are now many new suburbs named which did not exist when I lived at 2VZ in Concord!!!. I am quite wedded to the Quad and the FT-200, for the report from VK is usually 5 and 3 when nothing can be read on the Trapped Dipole..."

73

Ken G4EEC.

From: G.V. Haylock, G2DHV, 28 Longlands Road, Sidcup, Kent. ".....G2DHV has now resumed satellite beacon tracking of OSCAR 8 and 9 on 145/19/432 MHz bands, and has so far heard 12 Amateur Radio countries - including W/VE to G trans-Atlantic QSOs - since Christmas. Previously he was tracking from 1957 until 1965 on 19 and 143 MHz from Sputnik 1 through to the Cosmos series, using simple vertical and 6-element Yagi beams at low heights. It is a fascinating part of the hobby to hear a satellite before it gets to the horizon by noise and fluctuations, as though it was in a hurry to give up its telemetry signal to us. Details can be had from AM-SAT....."

73

George

G2DHV

From: Frank, G3DVL, 15 Keymer Road, Hollingbury, Brighton. BN1 8FB (Tel.: (0273) 558412. ".....I wonder if, in the next issue of "Mercury" you could find a little space to repeat the plea for members to help their R.S.A.R.S. colleagues who are collecting by making certain that they do send QSLs in return for those they receive?. As you know it is a requirement for any Society Awards to produce cards, and I think this requirement should stay, but I think it is a little sad when members do not support others in our very select Society!

For instance, on checking through my list I find that of members in Zone 14 I worked up to the end of June 1981 (and that's six months ago) I still have 36 from whom I require cards.....

I have certainly enjoyed RSARS since I joined and if I had known that I qualified I would certainly have joined much earlier.....

73

Frank

G3DVL

(I think a lot of members know how you feel, Frank!. With 582 worked I still require cards from 13 members!. And this was after a concentrated effort to reach the 500 point by sending (in some cases, many times) blank RSARS QSL cards together with my card and a stamped addressed envelope. Many replied but a number not only did not bother to reply but actually kept the SAE's!!!. Several years ago, one (long-standing) member of RSARS wrote to "Mercury" stating that, in future, he would no longer QSL. However, he was one of the first to complete the blank QSL card and return it in the SAE!!!!. Whilst it is appreciated that postage charges are ever-increasing and the cost of cards and printing are no longer cheap, endorsement of the senders QSL card ("Details of this QSO are hereby confirmed. Signed ??????/Call-sign") and return via the Bureau or enclosed SAE, will keep everyone happy. There is NO excuse for keeping SAE's - why not use it to say "I am not going to reply to your QSL". At least the collector can then delete your call-sign from his list!!!. Far better to say during the QSO "Under no circumstances will I QSL". - Ed.)

From: "Alf" Ramsey, The Orchard, Carmen Grove, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0BA. (whom we all know as G3UAA). ".....I have switched off the rig and put pen to paper as:

1). The enclosed letter from G3YOB came after I finally tracked him down and obtained confirmation of two 1975 QSO's with VS9MAA. Very rare as you can see as he only made 21 contacts!. Those in need will have to forward both QSL card and SAE to Peter's Reading address, (P.M. Dowdall, G3YOB, 2 Flamborough Close, Loddon Park Estate, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 3XB. - The OWL).

### MAIL BOX - Contd.

2). I also chased G6MB for a card. He was VK4AKD during March 1980 when he stayed with his son, VK4NPM (John, RSARS 1503). His reply was interesting (Quote) "I normally do not QSL but I did for all 469 contacts made during my use of VK4AKD, and so was surprised to get your appeal!!". On searching around I found 38 cards for 'G' contacts all parcelled up to send to RSGB and never posted. I enclose an original card made out for you. 73. Frank G6MB-. So there is hope for other .G's'!!!.

3). After writing to Tom. G3RPV/0254, I learned that he only worked FOUR 'G' stations from VP1. I think he was there during the early part of this year - although on his card he refers to "the year I was out there". He concludes with "The next time I go I will let more of the Net know. It looks like ZC4 again!". I was actually chasing Tom for a 1975 ZC4TV QSL so it looks as if that call may appear again!....." 73 "Alf".

From: Bob, W2AG, 30 Linden Street, Malverne, N.Y., 11565. ".....Glad you liked the story in "Mercury". I have many more that I could tell!. They had June 10th for Sicily and the date was July 10th 1943 (Bob is quite correct. Airborne elements of the attacking forces landed just after midnight and the seaborne troops started to hit beaches around 2:45 a.m. on July 10th 1943. - Ed.). The British First Army landed at Algiers on November 8th 1942 which was the Eastern Task Force. I was in the Centre Task Force that landed at Arzew, but some did land at Oran. Both these Task Forces came from the U.K. but the Western Task Force came from the U.S., many sailing from Norfolk, Virginia. These landed in Morocco. When Rommel was knocking on the Gates of Thala in Tunisia and things were looking bad, we lost an SCR-299 equipment to a JU-87 Stuka attack in Thala. A few of the crew were wounded and the SCR-299 was a total loss. The Assistant Signal Officer (one Major Williams) wanted to see the SCR299 but did not have the nerve to go up in the day-time and I had to take him up one night in my SCR-191 radio Jeep. I showed him the 299 and he checked a few things here and there and we were on our way back to II Corps HQ. On the way back a truck was blocking the road and he told me to go round the truck which was stuck on a bridge over a wadi. These bridges had no sides and Major Williams ordered me to drive round the truck. I said I didn't think it could be done, but he gave me the "If you are given an order, you carry it out" routine. I tried and the Jeep was over at an angle of 50 degrees or so - and out of the Jeep we went!. I told him I had seen a British Tank Recovery Unit back down the road. I contacted them and they were most helpful, getting a sling under the Jeep and lifting it back onto the road. The Major gave them some money for their trouble - it was quite dark, raining heavily and the whole area was covered in mud..... I still have a pair of pliers given me by my Colonel when we "visited" the Signal Corps Supply Depot at Tebessa in 1943..... Best wishes to all and I will keep looking for RSARS members on 21 MHz from 1230 GMT onwards..... 73 Bob.

From: Matt. Forrester, G4KUA/1711, Little Etchden, Bethersden, Kent, TN26 3DS. ".....Up to date I don't recall having spoken to any RSARS members since joining the Society, but I am sure that this is my fault - perhaps with a list of call-signs I shall do better!!!. Have made a lot of changes to my aerials in the last few weeks and now have a) Ground Plane Verticals with several radials for 10, 15 and 20 Metres. b) Half wave dipole for 80 Metres, c) Half Wave dipole for 40 and 15 Metres, d) Half Wave dipole for 20 Metres, and e) a full size G5RV - so I should have some fun!.

My earth is 3 X 3 feet copper rods. 40 Metres of insulated braid earth wire and 20 Metres of bare galvanised wire....." Many Salaams and best wishes.

Matt.

From: Leonard, RSARS 1283, 42 Rusthall Avenue, Chiswick, W4 1BP. "One or two things have caught my eye in the last edition of "Mercury". Firstly, on page 35 under "Did you know...?", the Type 46 crystal controlled set is listed as being designed by our President. Dare I venture to say that the No. 46 Set was made and sent to us under Lease Lend, by the USA. This was to replace the British No. 38 Set - the WS48 was very similar as was the British WS18. In recent years I sent the Instruction Book for these sets to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford via the good offices of G5YN. I wonder how the WS46 got into this article!!.

### MAIL BOX - Contd.

Turning to page 3. 2KN is listed, very sadly indeed, as GJ2KN became Silent Key on the 10th of November this year (1981). Perhaps some details of Harold are well worth noting.

Whilst still a youngster he contracted polio and had, therefore, to wear a leg-brace. He was operating in the early part of this century, and during the early part of WW II was, with his wife, tucked away in a houseboat at a secret and hidden part of the Thames, making small components for early radar. Despite his age, he used to make small steam engines, models of the real thing, which worked perfectly and were a joy to behold. He was well on his way to 90 years when his leg-brace snapped and he fell damaging a knee-cap. After hospital he returned home but slipped off a stool in his workshop and was returned to hospital and we, unfortunately, lost him..... Turning to other matters mentioned I note with regret that G3EKL is resigning. (Not resigning, OM, just falling out on his last parade with Royal Signals and handing over the job of Gen. Sec. on his return to Civvy Street - The OWL) and I wonder what his connection with Netheravon was?. (Ray was Quartermaster with a Service Unit whose "home" was at Netheravon - The OWL). I was at that S.A.C. but left on being invalided out of the Army. It all started when Lieut. Col. Grenville-Grey, late 9th Battalion, K.R.R.C. and Crete (having been one of the 54 officers and men who survived that debacle) took over as C.O. S.A.S. and insisted that his Signallers should come from K.R.R.C. and Rifle Brigade. So having left my Unit (2nd Bn. K.R.R.C. (The Rangers)) I was sent from my Holding Unit in Yorkshire to Netheravon. It was at a Church Fete in a nearby village (Fieghlden?) that I heard the news on the American Forces Network that the first atom bomb had been dropped. With the vicar's permission (of course!) I announced the fact over the P.A. I was operating, thus beating the B.B.C. to it!!!..... VE-Night was a time to remember in Netheravon ending with the writer putting two thunder-flashes through the local police constable's letter box (and me an ex-policemen!!!). May I be forgiven!..... Thanks again for "Mercury" - here's looking forward to the Spring edition....."

73

de

Leonard.

From' Mike. G4ICC/1415, Sunnyside, 268 Main Road, New Duston, Northampton, NN5 6PP. ".....I think that Gordon. G3ZFZ/0053 is incorrect in thinking that the "Dung Veercul" is a new weapon. I recall seeing a prototype of this at Farnborough in 1953, when it was being tested by a detachment of the Forty-First Ox-Gunners. I understood that it was an old vertical antenna which had been developed using the principle of diode co-axial cable, thus preventing any reverse power damaging P.A.'s, etc. The Ox-Gunners were using that particular weapon as a means of conserving ammunition. Common decency prevents me from repeating what the Officer i/c said on this later version when he discovered that the barrel had been left incorrectly coiled!!!.

On a more serious note, I have received over 200 QSLs for ZC4KC, whose operator, Monty, gave my call-sign as QSL Manager. All contacts were between 16th and 22nd December on SSB on 21.292 - 21.355 MHz, and I suspect the operator had heard me on the RSARS 15 Metre Net. The Joint Signals Board, Cyprus, have no knowledge of the call-sign since 1974.

Clearly, he is a phoney, but what pleasure he derives from this sort of operation is difficult to understand!.....

73

Mike.

From: George, GM4LLD/1718. ".....The articles in "Mercury" on The Old CW Lark and Life Before Royal Signals brought back to me happy childhood days; as my father and uncle were old R.E. Signals and both "hams" in the Twenties. They taught me morse on an old key and Sounder, Baudot, Wheatstone, etc., - I've worked them all - as G4BUS says in his article.

Morse's bones must rotate and all the old "Iddy, Iddy, Iddy, Umpty" men must turn over when they hear some of the CW sent now. Many's the time I have sat spellbound as Dad and my uncle wandered back to those days on the North-west Frontier, or the Khyber, France, Mesopotamia, etc., with yarns of the way they had to keep open the lines of communication in those days..... I enjoy the Net on 21.170 - Les (VK2NLE) is doing a great job down under. I hope he has got over the bronchitis.....".

### MAIL BOX - Contd.

From: Tony Grogan (who signs himself "Ex-Limey" and who will probably be an RSARS member by the time this is read). WA4MRR, 5 Rollingwood Drive, Taylors, South Carolina, 29687, U.S.A. ".....I am looking for accessories (Control Units. Satchels Signal. etc.) for WS 38, antennas for the WS 18, and I also need a Vibrator P.S.U. plus battery for the WS 58 (Canadian). Also Maintenance Manuals for the WS 38, WS 58 and WS 18. If anyone has a PAIR of WS 46 to dispose of, I would be very interested. I am the Librarian here for South Carolina U.S. Army Mars and if I can help any members with technical info., I will be glad to. I am a Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve."

73

Tony.

From : Frank Watts, G5BM. ".....Thanks for the comments on my signals. I have a good QTH on a small hill with a 15 - 20 miles view in most directions. This probably helps the signal..... My gear is as follows: 2 Metres - TS-700-S plus SEM 100 Watt Linear and a 9-element Tonna beam (horizontally polarized). HF - Trio TS-830-S plus full-sized dipoles for 3.5 and 7 MHz and a 265 feet End Fed for Top Band. This also works on all bands down to 10 Metres. It also loads up nicely, with a low SWR on the new 10, 18 and 24.5 MHz bands (so I shall be ready for January 1st!!!). I also have a Quad Loop antenna for 10 Metres.....".

73

Frank.

From: Mike Yorke, 9V1VF (and G4ASW. N2CDE and RSARS 0883), 3002 Pangkor, Ardmore Park, Singapore, 1025, Republic of Singapore. ".....I am pleased to be able to report that I now have my U.S. call-sign N2CDE (I was operating as G4ASW/W2 for 5 years!) but at the time I was getting it I was also preparing to come to Singapore, so I have not yet used it on the air. When I get back to the States in late 1983 I plan to activate it. I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that I am on the air from Singapore as 9V1VF. I operate HF CW and SSB, mostly on 20 and 15 Metres. I am using a Sommerkamp FT-DX-500 that I bought in the U.K. in 1973. It's still performing well. My antenna situation is not so great, though. I live on the 30th floor of a 34 story building (quite close to Orchard Road and just next door to the Shangri-La Hotel) but I cannot get permission to mount an antenna on the roof. I am forced to use whip antennas that have to be clamped to the outside of my window (350 feet high!!!) when I'm operating and taken in when I'm not!. I use a B & W Vacationer Telescopic Whip with loading coils, and a Yaesu Mobile Whip with exchangeable resonators and whip sections. Reports are actually quite good - 5 and 8 or 5 and 9 into the U.S. and Canadian West Coast and have been managing 5 and 7 or 5 and 8 into the USSR and Germany, etc. Don't have many G calls in the log, but did work GW3 the other night.....

.....Incidentally, to get on the air in Singapore requires the station to be inspected by the licensing authorities. They check the general engineering set-up of the station, they measure the power output they do two-tone tests as well as check for TVI and only when they are happy with the results do they issue a license. The station equipment is listed as a schedule to the license and any change of transmitter, transceiver, antenna or location requires new tests by the Telecomms.

Telecomms., by the way, are not free and easy about the type of transmitter or transceiver to be used. They have an approved list which they will not make available and do not approve for use anything with the new WARC bands or 10 MHz WWV unless these bands are permanently disabled. They are also tough on power output and rigidly enforce 150W DC input. I had to let Telecomms have details about how I was going to permanently (for my sojourn in Singapore) modify my own FT-DX-500 to reduce the input power, and had to uncase my transceiver for them to inspect the modification when they inspected my station prior to the licensing. Hopefully, all this is useful information for any RSARS member relocating in Singapore. Singapore, by the way, is a tremendous place. I used to be stationed here in 1963/4/5 with 249 Signal Squadron (HF Troop) at Princess Mary Barracks on Dover Road, and to see Singapore in the Eighties is like night and day. The economy is booming (I always knew it was - somewhere!) and the place has been modernised out of all recognition. Princess Mary Barracks is now the Singapore Polytechnic..... I am enclosing a small amount as a donation to Society funds. (Sincere thanks. Mike - Ed.)

73

Mike.

### MAIL BOX - Contd.

Short extracts from letters received ".....Concerning the "Dung Veercul" I venture my Line as "No, it was YOU I told to get knotted!" .....George, G4BNI, is suggesting that Jack, G4HLC, has some lace, whilst he has some ribbons. I MUST have missed something somewhere!!!" ".....Bert (not sure which one- The OWL) has given up smoking (but not drinking) (So it must be 'XSN - Ed.) has sent me a pipe. If the vicar ever calls here on a Sunday afternoon for a game of croquet, at least we have a mallet for him!!.....". ".....The feminine touch exercised by Rita. G3NOB, does wonders for Net discipline and is much appreciated. No nonsense there!!....."

From: Jim Payne, VK3AZT/1542. Box 105, Yarra Glen, 3775, Victoria, Australia. ".....I read with interest the "Old CW Lark", on page 47 of "Mercury" No.69. There was a character in the Jerusalem Signal Office around March/April 1942 whose Baghdad Morse was solid copy in the Gaza Fullerphone. I agree there is some woeful "attempted copy" put to air these days. What a job trying to write it or type it and get down what the originator put in his message. And talking of keyers..... I made a mechanical side-swiper with mainly brute force adjustments in New Guinea late in 1943 when most of our traffic was figure code. The paddle was a platform from a discarded anti-tank rifle magazine. It sent many hundreds of thousands of groups and travelled in my aluminium mess tins until the latter were stolen in a transit camp. Anyway, I have now descended to using a board which does produce near enough perfect CW and I enjoy using it....." 73 de Jim.

(Jim served with the Signal Platoon 2724 Australian Infantry Battalion in 1940, then Base Area Signals, Australian Imperial Force (Middle East) in 1941 and from 1942 until 1945 with 9th Australian Divisional Signals in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. Jim is still interested in contacting anyone who attended the No. 9 Refresher Course held October to December 1941 at the Signal School in Maadi (Cairo) - The OWL).

From : G.W. Adams, G4AKN/0884, 42 Orchard Avenue, Berkhamstead, HP4 3LG. ".....Together with my subscription for this year, may I toss in a question, please?. The subject is Standing Wave Ratio. Text book advice declares (well, it did in the one I read) that the sensing inductance or sensor for reflected power has to be somewhat increased inductively compared with the forward power detection. This was because when reflected current reached low level (and perhaps below the sensing ability) reflected power could still exist and not be read on the meter. If such an allowance is made how can one assert that the SWR ratio is 1 : 1?? I would have thought that reflected power should have the same standard measurement as that forward. Perhaps "1 : 1" means "No detected crimes" a manner of speaking!! I am trying to remember whether we bothered with S.W.R. as such with the variometer and the WS 19!? - and in particular with mobile whips. Does anyone know what the power limit of the WS19 variometer was? I believe the set was rated at 25 Watts.

I still have a pair of 807's. (new - and honestly acquired!) but bases for them are scarce it seems.

Can anyone recommend a book concerning antenna impedances and matching?. This without too many complicated mathematics. My view is "It is better to know what you are aiming for than hoping to find".....

Yours Truly

G.W. Adams.

From: BILL Trenchard, G4EHU, 34 Monmouth Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 8RJ. "Please find enclosed my sub. for 1982. I forgot it one year so now I put a big circle on January 2nd!... (Other Annual members please copy - Ed.). I was interested to read the article on the Leave Pass story, because I was at No. 2 W/T at Sarafand and remember the CO Major Winterbottom. I was at GSI(S) at Heliopolis also and the CO there was a Major Dryden and where I worked with a Major Wallace, who later died of typhus. In Italy I was in 155 Special W/T Group and our OC there was a Captain Abrahams with a Sgt. Snowball in the Ord. Room. The mechanic was Sgt. Ricketts at Heliopolis. I was on the cipher side of things and not on the sets. A civilian who was working at Heliopolis, G4QK, lives about a mile from me. He was one of the boffins in Helio."

73

Bill.

### MAIL BOX - Contd.

From: Jim Foster, ZS5JF/RSARS 0134 (Ex G2JF), 2 Burton Place, New Scotland Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201, Natal, South Africa. ".....Whilst generally agreeing with the G3XSN version of Amateur Radio A1 operation there would appear to be one or two signal abbreviations which leave me slightly mystified. For instance, when did we lose the accepted terminology ...- - (Vic Ack) to signify the end of message - and how strange that the same symbol ... - (SK) has been substituted. Can anyone give a logical explanation?. Although the symbol "KN" is now extensively used. I wonder how much attention is paid to what it was intended to signify?. I believe "KN" like the symbols "AA" (All After) and "AB" (All Before) are a bit out of context in Amateur Radio. "KN" is, of course, post-war, whilst "AA" and "AB" are all part of the recognised procedures during my 1925-30 stint in The Royal Corps of Signals with 55th (West Lancs.) Division Signals. I would like to thank the contributors and management for their efforts expended in the production of "Mercury"....."

73

Jim Foster.

(Many thanks from us all, Jim. - Ed.).

From : Steve S. Nurkiewicz. N2DAN/1676. 246 Garfield Street, Freeport, New York. ".....Just a few words to tell you all is going well here. My back is getting better. On Xmas Day I fell and fractured my vertebrae, but Doc said it should be well again in about four weeks. (Sorry to hear about the spot of trouble there, Steve, and hope all is well again by the time you read this. - Ed). As you know, I have a new call-sign, N2DAN, and have been active /MM and /M. My first /M to /M contact since WW II was with Bert, G3XSN (that bloke gets in EVERYWHERE - The OWL). We also made a 5-Bands RSARS QSO (What did I tell you? - The OWL)..... .....We had planned to visit my mothers in the Spring of '82 and possibly show up on 7, 3.5 or even Top Band but things don't look too good, so we'll be waiting a while before going over to SP9....."

73

Steve.

All officers of the Society would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members who kindly sent along Christmas and New Year greeting either by means of the Mail or on the various amateur bands. These greetings are heartily reciprocated. Many thanks.

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### HE BOOBED AGAIN!

By: THE OWL.

Returning recently from a trip to Australia, the Owl brought back a piece of poetry which (he says) he found in VK2NLE's mail. Apparently, the Editor in a recent edition of "Mercury", indicated that Ken, G4EEC, was a lad of 72. This made some people wonder how he managed to join the Australian 1st Cavalry Division Signals AT THE AGE OF 13!. The poetry explains:

A poll would vote the OWL a "beaut",  
A really bonzer bloke,  
But could it be a noisy line  
That put him off his stroke? , ,  
For EEC + 4 + G,  
Along the path to Heaven(?),  
His Summers seen, not seven and two,  
But more than seven and seven.

(To be read with an Aussie accent).

(We are happy to put the record straight. G4EEC is NOT a young lad of 72, but a young lad of 78! - Ed.)

SORRY, I MISSED THAT.

G3NVK/0138

Do you suffer from "shaaarsh"? Well, it's no good consulting your Doctor if you do. The writer suffered this complaint for many years and attributed it, as we all do, to gas-fired central heating - the thermostat.

The symptoms are well-known - a long burst of crippling interference on all types of receiver, both domestic and amateur, and in the latter case, thanks to Murphy's Law, always coming at the most vital point of a QSO especially in Contests. The reason is the thermostat "chatters" by virtue of the back e.m.f. through the gas valve coil when the magnetic field collapses, causing broad-band spark-type interference.

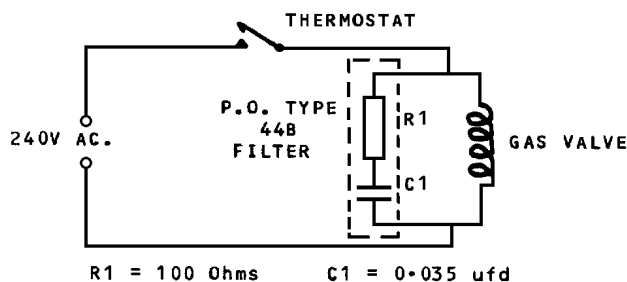
I am now absolutely and 100% cured after fifteen seconds work and at a cost of £1.24.

The answer came from a lecture by a member of the Post Office Radio Interference Section, G.P.O., Leicester. I pass on the facts for the benefit of other sufferers.

The Post Office sell their Type 44B Interference Suppression Filter for the price mentioned above and it is but a moments work to fit it in the central heating system.

The circuit given below was supplied by the lecturer but he does say that the circuit published on page 364 of Radio Communication is totally wrong and, indeed, dangerous.

The filter is fully encapsulated and has only two leads requiring connection, but if you "do it yourself" from the junk box remember the capacitor has mains- voltage across it and needs to be 600 Volts Working.



////////////////////////////////////

A 10 METRE BEAM.

Bill G4EHU/1324.

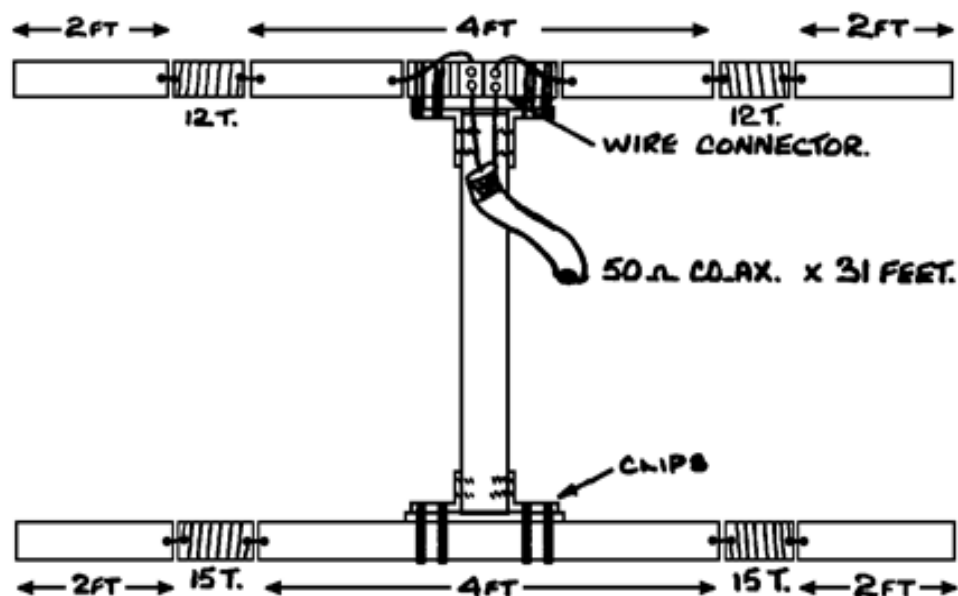
(The following came in from Bill (EHU) via Bill (DBU). It was designed as a roof-space 10 Metre beam and, according to Bill (EHU) works very well indeed. With weatherproofing it could doubtless be adapted for outside use. - Ed.).

The 10 Metre beam (diagram on next page) was designed to operate within the roof-space. Tests have shown that it works very well and will doubtless interest those who are restricted for outside antenna space. The alloy tubes were made from an old roller blind and is 1 inch across. The dipole was made up first and grid-dipped to 28 MHz (no details given but possibly by adjustment of el. length - Ed.). The reflector is then completed and grid-dipped to 26 MHz. On-air tests should than be made with an SWR Bridge in circuit and coils trimmed to give a 1.1:1 SWR on the CW end of the band and 1.5:1 around 28.700 MHz. The beam can be turned with a Stolle Rotator. The beam has been successful in copying many of the 10 Metre beacons including ZS, YV, 5B4, LA, DL, HB and many others.

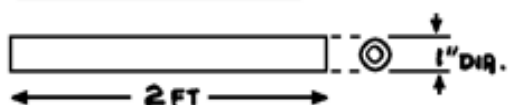
DID YOU KNOW....?

The Woman's Royal Army Corps was previously known as the Auxiliary Territorial Service, before that as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and before that as Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1944 there were 8,241 A.T.S. girls (excluding A.A. Command).



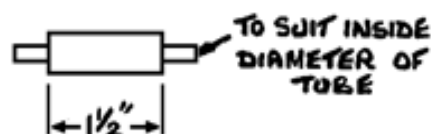


### DRIVEN ELEMENT.



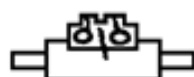
QTY: 4. (INSIDE 2 SLIGHTLY SHORTER).

ANGLE BRACKETS TO SUIT.  
QTY: 2.



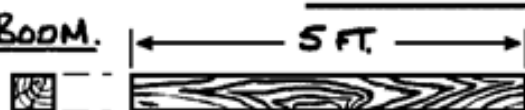
QTY: 2: MADE FROM WOODEN BROOM HANDLE.

CLIPS. QTY 4.



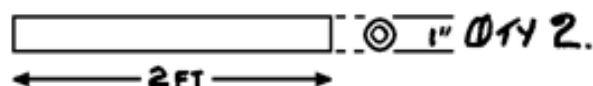
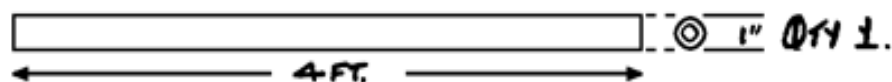
CENTRE PIECE (WITH WIRE CONNECTOR). QTY 1.

### BOOM.



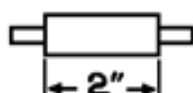
WOOD OR METAL BOOM TO SUIT.

### REFLECTOR.



CLIPS. QTY 4.

ANGLE BRACKETS  
TO SUIT. QTY: 2.



QTY 2. MADE FROM WOODEN BROOM HANDLE.

## FURTHER NOTES ON THE TWO-BAND QUAD.

G4EEC/1176.

A member has kindly written to describe the problems he had when constructing and erecting this Quad. He departed from the specified components and it seems wise to emphasise the following points:

1. Use only "garden canes". They are springy and tough and are essential if they are going to stand up to gales. You can do away with the stubs if you can get long straight canes or you can use shorter stubs if your canes are longer than those specified.
2. If stubs are used then first grade straight grained wood is essential. Hardwood can be used but it must be free from cross grain and knots.
3. Larger wood squares may be used but add to the weight and increase the possibility of wind damage.

At G4EEC the frames, though very exposed to SW and NE gales, have never failed, though the loops have once or twice come adrift at the corners due to the ties cutting through on sharp edged insulators. This problem has now been cured.

G4EEC

\*\*\*\*\*

## MORE ABOUT THE 1/2-KW SPARK SET (THE PACK SET).

G4EEC/1176.

Gus Taylor (G8PG) poses some questions about the Army version of the Marconi Marine Set in the No. 69 issue of "Mercury". The Pack Set had a 2-3/4 H.P. twin opposed petrol engine on one side of the pack saddle frame and a 1/2-Kw self excited alternator with rotary gap on the other side. The two were connected together by a square-ended, spring-expanded, shaft (inserted after removing the mule!!!!) If not very carefully engaged this shaft was prone to fly out and maim the operator. The two large boxes containing the works were placed one on top of the other. The bottom box contained the H.T. transformer, the H.F. primary and the "condenser". The top box contained the H.F. secondary and the TX/RX tuning circuits, phones and key. There were three cables from the bottom box - (a) Twin from transformer primary to alternator. (b) Twin from transformer primary to key (in top box). (c) Flex. H.T. cable from condenser to rotary spark gap. The sets used by the 1st Cavalry Division Signals (Australia) used two sectional steel pipe masts with a 2 wire inverted L aerial just like those commonly seen on ships at the time. The earth mats of copper gauze were not square but rolled out like a stair carpet and were a bit shorter than the aerial.

The illustration of the Marconi Marine Set in "The Handbook of Technical Instruction for Wireless Telegraphists. (circa 1915) shows a marked similarity to the Pack Set, but with a motor alternator/rotary gap in place of the engine and alternator. This book calls the assembly "The Marconi Cabinet Set".

G4EEC.

~~~~~

## FURTHER WORDS OF WISDOM.

REX/G2CDN/ZS6XC.

People don't change, they only become more so.

Christmas morning discovery - "Batteries not included".

The meek shall inherit the earth, but not it's mineral wealth.

Speak softly, and own a big Doberman.

It is impossible to make anything foolproof, because fools are so ingenious.

To err is human but to really foul things up needs a computer.

If you're "coasting" you're going downhill.

A carelessly planned project will take three times longer to complete than expected - a carefully planned one will only take twice as long.

## THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN OWL.

### G8LT/0290.

(Robin, G8LT, is no stranger to the pages of "Mercury" - back in 1979 he received a "Best Mercury Article" Award. A quiet moment produced the following thoughts which readers will doubtless find interesting. Robin originally held the "AA" call-sign 2BMA before getting his Class 'A' license in 1937 as G8LT. Employed in the electronics industry since the War, Robin is well known on the bands particularly in the field of RTTY).

Recently I fell to pondering about my first encounter with Royal Signals and its "wireless", and I have to confess that it was the 'A' Set with which I was faced. Designed for mule transport in India, it was not renowned either for its small size or light weight. By 1939, the No.11 Set was, in Divisional Signals certainly, certainly the work-horse that kept us going and handled a lot of traffic. About the same era, on a Course in Catterick, I encountered the No. 2 Set; a beast of enormous proportions and mounted in a great pantehnicon and, for the purpose of the exercise (and not for nothing) was code-named the "Guns Butter"!. I seem to remember that the Unit L.A.D. had frequently to haul it out of its plight of being axle-deep in mud. Now things have changed.

Of course, before the War we were conditioned to building our own equipment but post-War, changes started to take place. Not the least was the advent of SSB and, in the 60's, RTTY and Slow-Scan TV. With these things came the commercially made "black box".

Surely the most remarkable change was the really stable VFO which came in the wake of the transistor. Today, digital readout is the norm and control to 100 Hz is regarded as standard practice. We have indeed come a long way from when we ground our own crystals!.

Now we rely on a variety of transceivers imported from the Far East and having almost no U.K. content. What happened to our native initiative???

To predict is never easy but in my opinion, future amateur equipment in common with other things will be much influenced by the newer VLSI techniques. Because it is possible technically to implant several thousand active elements on one silicon chip, hand wiring is less necessary and I envisage the time when a transceiver will consist of a handful of VLSI building blocks packaged in DIL form handling routine operations such as frequency synthesis, band filters, speech processing and signal shaping up to pre-driver levels before the P.A. stage (untuned, of course!!). Digital techniques will increasingly take over from analogue so that even the microphone may contain its own A/D converter with all the audio subsequently being handled in digital form. No main tuning control but rather a keypad on which we will have to learn to key the operating frequency we want. What then, one may ask, is left for us to experiment with?. From here on one can but guess.

Notwithstanding what has just been said, I see increasing interest in the GHz bands we have and in microwave matters in general. There remains still a wide field of endeavour both in antennas and basic gear. Satellites, E-M-E and the like will surely keep us busy for a long time. Those of us not immersed in the technology on a day to day basis may, perhaps, confess to our ignorance on such matters.

Despite opinions to the contrary, there is still room for the amateur experimenter. History shows this to have been the case in the past and history has a habit of repeating itself. For example, there is still room for more work on aerial systems on the HF bands. Some of us can recall the days before co-axial cable was available and the norm was tuned "Zepp" feeders or parallel 600 Ohms line. These were the visible signs of the amateur station. With many new Class 'A' licences appearing, they might do worse than re-examine some of the things developed by their predecessors. That ear-blocking signal from the antipodes does not necessarily come from an expensive beam atop a tower. Maybe the Beverage long wire is worth another look?.

It was in my hearing many years ago that the great aerial wizard, "Dud" Charman (Ex RSARS 1288 - Ed.), G6CJ, opined that "a good aerial consists of getting as many "square wavelengths" as possible up in the air". That being said, the good old Vertical also takes some beating if properly set up although one might not get the same fun from some of the trapped commercial versions with their corkscrew-like appendages!!.

### THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN OWL - Contd.

Undoubtedly computer techniques and digital circuitry are with us for keeps. With a bit more "progress" our stations will operate themselves and the signs are already there. So, how about our operating techniques? God forgive we should ever import any of the verbal garbage from CB!. There is scope for tidying up our procedures especially on 'phone where VOX operation frequently adds to the "Algemeine Fishfone" situation. There is much to be said for that old advice to public speakers, namely "Get up, Speak up and Shut up". This can help to limit those gaseous overs. I wonder, too, whether in ten years time there will remain the passion for Dx-peditions working itinerant ham travellers perched for a brief period on some largely unknown rock in a distant ocean or for VHF contacts with mythical squares on a map; I doubt it!. Hopefully we will still have the urge to put together a station that works well in all senses and from which will follow good experience, pleasure and a lot of good friends.

If the next generation gets bitten with the bug like their fathers, then Ham Radio has little to fear.

~~~~~

### ADVERT(?).

Possibly by

the OWL with help from 0620.

(Entering the Editorial Offices of "Mercury" recently (the dining room at "Beirnfels") there was the OWL tapping away at the typewriter with his beak. As his typing is even worse than his general knowledge it was decided to type it for him. When asked from whence it came all he would say was "Black and White X-ray". - Ed.).

Amazing new breakthrough in DX-hunting!!.. Development is still under way, but production should be in hand by 1984, if not even Later.

#### THE QUAQUAVERSAL REVOLVING PRAYER-MAT (Q.R.P. FOR SHORT).

Designed primarily for the QRP man (of course!) with a yearning for RSARS DX.

Press the VK button, watch it swing gracefully round the NE quadrant, then kneel and recite the desired call-signs and - Hey Presto!, there they are, lined up, Q5 S9+20 and writing out their QSL cards with YOUR callsign in the right place, and sending it Air Mail, no trouble at all. Same with the VE's, the W's and the ZL's, not to mention the more rarefied calls.

Many exclusive features, e.g. Automatic Sunspot Evaluation, Integral DX path Sensor, built-in QRM/QSB Eliminator and High Speed Digital QSO Counter.

Powered by 2 Rolls-Royce RB-211 (Mk. X) engines, with 8-speed automatic gear box. Hydrolastic Suspension, Thermo-nuclear Shock Absorbers, Anti-Roll Bar and Reversing Lights.

Optional extras include, Gyroscopic Mount for the 4 Kw Trophy, which is guaranteed to add at least 2 S-points, modification kit for Two metre-efem operation (with range-finder for Contest work. astro-compass and fog lamps.

Don't Delay!!.. Get in the queue NOW!. Enquiries please, via the General Secretary, enclosing 5000 IRC, a certified copy of current driving license (valid for Group F).

GET THAT DX ! - GO Q.R.P. TODAY !!!!!!!!!!!.

~~~~~

### WHY BRING THAT UP???

Les. G8NY/0486.

During the war, I had to take some communication equipment across to Belfast from Heysham by sea ferry. Being no sailor and having been warned that the crossing could be very rough, I took advice and booked a cabin as it was an overnight trip. I got on board early and got to sleep before departure. I awoke sometime later looking quite "green" and being very sick. I decided the only thing to do was to go on deck and get some fresh air. Imagine my surprise when I found we had not moved and were still tied up alongside!!!.

## AWARDS AND CONTEST NEWS.

### G3EKL/0046.

Well - on into our 21st year and I can report that the 5-59 Contest sections were well patronised. Indeed, activity was greater than before and the letters and comments received with the Logs indicated a lot of new members worked and, seemingly, a lot who were heard but got away!. As before, the results will probably be found in the "Odds & Bobs" Section, or whatever the editor may decide to call the back end of "Mercury". Ladder progress from 1st October 1981 until 1st February 1982 has been surprisingly good. On the Any Mode (AM) Europe Ladder four new members, DJØSS (110), G3JPJ (111), G4MOS (112) and GM4LLD (113) all claimed the Basic Award. First Class Honours went to G3DVL (87), G3WRY (88) and DJØSS (89). Europe Stickers were awarded to G3ZFZ (200), G3WRY (200 and 250), G3NT (350), G3YBT (400), G3MKR (450), G3NOB (450 and 500) and G3DBU (450 and 500). The Europe CW Ladder has welcomed G3WRY (Basic and 50 Sticker), G3ZFZ (Basic) and GM4LLD (Basic). G3NOB also gained the 100 Sticker. The Europe VHF Ladder has accepted G3WRY, G4HWC and G4MOS at the Basic level with VHF Stickers to G4MEU/G8YGV (20), G3WRY (20), G3MKR (30), G3DBU (30 and 40) and G3NVK (40). On the QRP Ladder, G4MOS has claimed the Basic Award, whilst G3BWX has climbed quietly and serenely from 130 to 170!!!. This leaves Alex with the QRP Trophy once again!. The Europe Special Ladder - No. 35 went to G3WRY and No. 36 to G3ZFZ. The highlight of the period was the neck-and-neck race between G3NOB and G3DBU whose claims reached me on consecutive days!!. Both were correct and it gave me enormous pleasure to award Special Supreme No. 7 to Rita, G3NOB and No. 8 to Bill, G3DBU. I gather that they are both now chasing G3UAA toward the 300 CW rung - any bets who gets there first??. Rita also claimed worked All Continents No. 9.

Overseas activity has produced more movement with VS6JW claiming AM Basic No. 22 and First class No. 16, and VK2NLE has pounded on to the 200 AM rung. On the CW Ladder VS6JW claimed Basic No. 6 and then on to the 25 rung.

The member with the "Most Overall Progress" for 1981 was, Tony, G3WRY, with a healthy 520 points change on the various Ladders. Second was G3DBU, Bill, with 370 points and G3NVK, Dick, with 278 points. Well done, everybody.

To stimulate overseas working an additional award is being floated, an Overseas Century from Zone 14 Award. Usual rules apply, commencing 1st January 1969 - the award is available from Zone 14 only and I suspect that I'll have two or three applications as soon as this copy is read!.

The Ladders shown below bring us up-to-date on the issues of the GW2OP Award (Services to the Society) and the 4 kW QRP Award (QRP Results).

### GW2OP AWARD

| Year | Member        |
|------|---------------|
| 1970 | G3DPS         |
| 1971 | G3EJF         |
| 1972 | G3HSE         |
| 1973 | G. Titchmarsh |
| 1974 | G3XTL         |
| 1975 | G8FG          |
| 1976 | G4CGS         |

| Year | Member            |
|------|-------------------|
| 1977 | G3VYZ             |
| 1978 | GW3ASW            |
| 1979 | G3NKO             |
| 1980 | G5BM and<br>G3KLX |
| 1981 | VK2NLE            |

### QRP AWARD


| Year | Member |
|------|--------|
| 1975 | G3FMW  |
| 1976 | G3YSK  |
| 1977 | G3BWX  |
| 1978 | G3BWX  |
| 1979 | G3BWX  |
| 1980 | G3BWX  |
| 1981 | G3BWX  |

Don't forget the two extra 21st Anniversary Contests - there will be a "one-off" Contest on the Anniversary Date - 23rd June 1982. Members are to work one another irrespective of band or mode. Three winners plaques - one within Zone 14, one outside zone 14 and an overall SWL winner (The OWL hopes that a lot of our many SWL members will be sending in a Log this time - Ed.). In addition a special 21st Anniversary Certificate will be made available to any member working/hearing 25 paid-up members ON 40 METRES AND UPWARDS between 1st June 1982 and 31st July 1982. I have deliberately excluded Top Band and Eighty Metres. For both the 21st Anniversary Contest and the 21st Anniversary Certificate please follow the usual Awards and

### AWARDS AND CONTESTS NEWS - Contd.

Contests Rules except that I will accept Log extracts from these contests and shall not require QSL cards. Please submit your claims by the end of August 1982.

By the way, have you found the QRS CW Net on 80 Metres Sunday mornings? Doug, G3KLX, is working wonders and any member not too happy with the Wednesday CW Nets is strongly advised to have a listen on Sundays, usual QRG, around 1000 hours Clock Time. And, further to the Society Nets, the 80 Metre Sunday morning Net seems to have died probably because of the Slow CW Net and the 20 Metre Net based on our DA/DL members which starts up at 1130 hours Clock Time. It is difficult to keep pace with conditions and members changing habits and, although the inside back cover of Mercury gives our broad brush intentions, I strongly suggest checking in with the regular 15 Metre Net on 21270 KHz each day and/or the 80 Metre Net which is active each evening for the latest DX gossip. Keep a wary eye on the back end of "Mercury" for any last minute changes to nets in general!.



Good DX and make the most of the bands.

73

Awards and Contests Manager RSARS.

P.S. Don't forget - Anniversary claims by the end of AUGUST!!!.

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### CQ RSARS MEMBERS RESIDENT OR VISITING BAOR.

Do you ever come up to the North East? If so, why not come along and visit the Celle and District ARC - DA2CL/AFF 059. We meet every Tuesday evening at Ironside Barracks, Scheuen, (Just outside Celle) at 2000 hours Local Time. For more info ring Kit Hall on 05141 36569 or Scheuen Military 217.

### THANKS.

The Celle and District Amateur Radio Club. DA2CL/AFF 059, would like to thank the following for donations to the new club. To Ron, DA1FR, for the DM 50, to Ron. G3XUG for the 8-element 2 Metre Beam, to Joe, G3JPJ for the 2 Metre receiver, and, lastly, to Tom, DJØBU for the bookcase. Thank you all.

### 2 Metre Mobile in the Celle area.

If you venture /M into Celle and the surrounding area, call/listen on 144.825 MHz. This is the local RSARS frequency.

### RSARS EUROPEAN NATTER NET.

The RSARS European Natter Nat (mentioned above) meets every Sunday at 1130 GMT on 14.175 MHz. If you're in DL, look for G3EKL, G3NVK, G3NT or G4HVA. If you are in the UK look for DA2WN. DJØSS, DA1NW or DA1FR. Please call in - you may well find that elusive RSARS number you've been looking for!. After this Net on 20 we move to 3.740 MHz at approx. 1230 hours GMT. Calls to look for here are DA2WN, DA2CL, DJØSS, DA1FR, DA1NW, DA1CY and DL6AA. See you????

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### DID YOU KNOW....?

The calculated resonant frequency of the space between the earth's surface and the ionosphere is 8Hz?. 80% of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today.

(The following article was first published in "FEPOW FORUM", the official magazine of The Far East Prisoner-of-War Association. We are indebted to that magazine and to its Editor, Bryn Roberts, for permission to publish in "Mercury". Mr. Roberts is an ex-member of Royal Signals. - Ed.).

The set was originally a 6 valve set picked up from an enemy bungalow in Singapore and first operated by POW's in Bukit Tinah Working Camp at a period when the Japanese had not begun their searches. Eventually it was brought to Thailand and taken up-river in a tinned milk container. It was first used at Wun Lung and there run off a motor truck battery, the driver being bribed to leave the truck open at night. Damaged on its next move it was eventually rebuilt on the simplest one valve receiver principle, and reached Kinsayok in a 4-gallon kerosene tin and operated there, until the dreadful affair at Kanchanaburi caused orders to be given to bury the set. On his transfer to Tamuang in 1944 Major Mackenzie, 125 Anti-tank Regiment, R.A. who had been operating, brought it with him. At Tamuang, Major Andrews was already running a News Service from Chunkai, where a set was operating from a fake grave in the cemetery and having met, the two officers agreed to open up operations. The set was now housed in a Red Cross water bottle which just hung at the end of a sleeping place. The aerial went up through the centre of a bored out bamboo post, while the earth wire went down through a similar channel. The batteries were contained in a tin and the earphones in another tin buried under the sleeping slats and covered with a board with three inches of earth on top. It took 96 small ordinary torch batteries to run the set, thirty-six on low tension and sixty on high tension. The table on which it was laid out had a false top, the proper top had a cloth, a vase of flowers and some odds and ends, thus in the event of an alarm the set was unclipped from its terminals, the bottom shut, the false table top folded back and there was nothing to show. A Bridge four played at the entrance to the hut, while scouts surrounded the hut. In April batteries cost 75 cents but by December the price had risen to \$3-30. The set was actually operated in two or three different buildings, moves being necessitated by Japanese alterations to the Camp. In all 250 batteries were brought in and some 130 News Bulletins were published to officers in Camp between June 1944 and January 1945. By that time the set was almost worn out. Major Andrews had one narrow escape which involved his own life, and the set had a further narrow escape. A consignment of batteries came in too late at night to uncover the hideout and bury them, so Major Andrews put them in a bucket under his bed and flung a towel over them. Next morning, before any action could be taken, the Japs searched the Camp. Major Andrews, being a hut commander, personally conducted the search party round his hut, and they gave his kit a most perfunctory lookover.

On another morning Major Andrews was informed that the building in which the set was reposing was in the process of being demolished by Jap orders. Major Andrews dashed over and found two of his scouts, Master Gunner Bulhearne and Sergeant Honeyman, both of the A.I.F., on the spot. They were all grins and hailed him with "OK. Sir, it's been moved". It appeared that they had immediately collected half a dozen friends and told them that there was the kit of an officer buried in the building. They milled round and made a crowd eight yards or so from the Japanese Overseer. The tins were dug up, placed in a wicker skip and carried off to a permanent hideout previously prepared for a crisis.

Batteries were brought in by officer working parties, the chief agents being Lieut. Pearson and Captain McDermott, of the Guides. After several trials a plan was adopted. They should not just carry their contraband into Camp in their haversacks, but should enter last. In this way they would know whether the party was being subject to a search and be in a position to unload. Since the Kanburi incident all these people knew perfectly well that they were carrying their lives in their hands. Major Andrews also ran a newspaper service which was only one degree less dangerous. A Thai paper was delivered to a small Chinese hut, four hundred yards from the Camp, four or five.....





# THE OWL'S BIT

(Being a collection of information, useless and otherwise, collected from a variety of sources on a variety of subjects.).

Recently the OWL was on his way back from a look around Sydney and was making his way north and was approaching the Barkly Tableland in NW Queensland. He usually took a break on one of the tall chimney stacks in the area and this time he chose the 1,000ft one near Mt. Isla. He was disturbed by the noise of the hoist coming up the side of the stack ("I remember it takes 9 minutes from bottom to top, he mused). His wide eyes widened farther still when he noticed a 2 Metre beam tied to the end of a broom handle sticking out from the side of the hoist. All was explained when he recognised Mike. VK4VFO/RSARS 1622 and learned that this was a 2-Metre "vertical" DX-pedition!. A quite successful one, too, it seems.

Whilst in the area the OWL visited Townsville ('It's changed a bit since I was here in 1947 and helped with the census. I remember the final population figure then was 34,233, he mused, yet again!. This time he heard about the great amount of work put in by Roger, VK4CD/1575 at the North Queensland Radio Convention. There was something for everyone. Lectures and demonstrations for the ladles plus a visit to the local tropical gardens. For the junior ops the local Scouts did their stuff, and the kiddies even had a Children's Transmitter Hunt. Lectures for the OM included one on the Flying Doctor Service which dates back to 1928. This the OWL found very interesting.

The OWL also saw DXCC-CW Award being prepared for VK3BBT/1190. This was No. 115 and was issued at the second attempt. Apparently the first claim included cards from KC4USX, ZL5MC, 4K1G and 8J1RL. Unfortunately, as DX-minded readers will have already noted, they all come from the same country - Antarctica!. Des did a quick substitution with cards from UG6AD, VP9DR and FO8GT, which kept officialdom happy, and we congratulate Des on the Award.

Rumour has it that Robert, VK2CKF/1574 has been in hospital and has been visited there by Les, VK2NLE. We all hope that you are soon off Sick Parade, Robert.

On his way back from VK (long path, of course) the OWL passed over North Wales where he saw someone very like G3XSN/0343 buying a platform ticket at a local railway station. Closer inspection revealed that he was at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysillogogoch and he ('XSN) needed the ticket to remember how to spell it. (It means, according to the OWL, "St. Mary's church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of Llandysilio of the red cave")

It was interesting to the OWL to note that RSARS membership was represented in 3 of the 5 Ordinary Member of Council candidates for the 1982 RSGB Council, while Ian J. Kyle. GI8AYZ/0058 held the fort as Zone F representative.

On the 24th October 1981 the OWL was in the Brighton area where he saw George, G4AWI/0541 attending his 8th Army old Comrades Reunion Dinner accompanied by his good lady. George was "killing two birds with one stone" so to speak, as it was their 39th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, both.

G3NVK has received a 42-point Certificate from the RSARS VK/ZL Chapter as well as a Parker Pen-cum-digital watch as the highest Scorer in the recent VK Activity Period. Well done, Dick.

George, VK4XY, was under the impression that his first RSARS QSO was with G3XSN on 21-12-69 but has found a QSL card for a contact with a certain MP4TDA on the 8-12-69. This was, of course, the Gen. Sec. who pipped Bert at the post.

The OWL reckons that, for months now, he has been trying to tell RSARS that they had W2AG's ZIP Code wrong and that it should have been 11565 and not 11505 as was listed on the computer. Sorry about that, Bob.

GM3GRX is no longer GM3GRX, but G3GRX having moved to the following address: ERIC L. SIMPSON, 16 MONNINGTON WAY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA. CA11 8QJ.

### THE OWL'S BIT - Contd.

The OWL was passing through Slough last year and was just in time to see a certain G3AHB all dressed up for an operation. Not a serious one, fortunately, as, on his return to the area a week or so later, he watched Les having his stitches out (I wish we could stop him doing that! - Ed.) Trust all is now well, Les.

Talking about VK4XY, the OWL notes that George made an application to the Awards Manager way back in early November and now has 56 on CW, 68 overseas and 84 Any Mode. Well done. OM.

Being nosy in GI-Land recently the OWL discovered that Walter, GI2DZG, has now retired and has become a Professional Loafer (although he is now busier than ever!). Whilst there the OWL picked up a copy of the Sunday Times Magazine of July 19th 1981. Walter pointed out an article on pages 18-21 inclusive, dealing with the World War Two work of photographer Reggie "Scoop" Speller. One of the large photos shows a group of Royal Corps of Signals personnel grouped around a Baby Austin(?) while one Signaller gives an excellent impression of Adolf Hitler. Dress is S.D. Jackets and Trousers without puttees. Lanyards wire twin-cord types with two toggles. They were, apparently, khaki and worn on the right shoulder. Judging by the gloves and goggles, it is suspected that most of those shown were D.R.'s. Unfortunately, the picture is a bit too dark to print here. Anyone remember the photo or the people therein????

The O i/c of the "DUNG VEERCUL" in the last edition was G6ADR.

A cutting from the Bolton Chronicle was recently received at the Editorial Headquarters of "Mercury" (no name, call-sign, etc.). It dealt with C.B. and the closing paragraph is interesting - "The maximum power that should be used is 4 Kw and NOT 40 Kw as recently stated in the Chronicle. This should avoid TV interference". (Well, at least it will help - The OWL).

Visiting the Melton Mowbray area in early January the OWL learned that a certain G3NVK is rapidly approaching his target of 500 worked but that the KW 2000-B is now getting a bit tired and (the monetary situation permitting) may well be replaced with something like a Trio 530-S. It was also understood that Joanne (the Junior Op. at 'NVK), having already got 9 "O" Levels is now taking "A" Levels in French, Statistics and Computer Sciences and - as if that's not enough - "O" Levels in German and Latin!! (Good Luck, Joanne!).

Les. VK2NLE, has had a problem or two with his 820. It would appear that it is a problem with a relay which is intermittent. As Les remarked to the OWL "Oh, for a bottle of Carbon-Tet. - this is not available to the public here any more".

Whilst in Australia the OWL looked up Bing, VK2NHV/1702. He found him on Burgess Beach at Forster, about 100 yards from the home QTH. The bay, surrounded by rolling green hills has a silvery sand beach and blue waters - a change from the Aldershot Bing knew many years ago as a RSM I with the cavalry.

Reading a recent copy of "Jimmy", the journal of the Australian Chapter of RSARS the OWL was interested to read the following, published under the heading "What are the odds?":

Previous to WW II I corresponded with amateurs in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, the United States of America, Italy and Japan who were also interested in philately and by this means cemented friendships and extended my stamp collection.

Guiseppe Damascelli of Bari, Italy, in a letter to me asked if I would send him some addresses of Hams that I was corresponding with who were also stamp collectors.

In reply I sent him the name and address of Shochiki Yoshamura in Moji. A month or so later I received another letter from Italy and Guiseppe thanked me for sending the address of the "J" and informed me that he had been corresponding with him for some years!.

Could some reader of "Jimmy" (and "Mercury" - Ed.) work out the odds?  
Also in "Jimmy" VK4AIX tells of the fact that "locals" are not always around for those "first" contacts. In his case as VK2ALG (a long time ago) his first contact was with YV1AD, as VK2DPI with ZL2APU, as VK2DPI/4 with IZ1PKW and as VK4AIX with DK1DH. Not another VK in sight!!!.

#### THE OWL'S BIT - Contd.

If you hear "funny" noises emanating from the G4RS region around the week-end of 20/21 February 1982 it is because G4ETG has organised (and dragged in various others such as Dave, G3TAN, Paul and maybe a couple of others) a JOTA-type event for the local Girl Guides.

G3WNG, John down at Blandford has, the OWL understands got really involved in a thing called a ZX81 computer as well as getting involved with getting the Local Club going again. Apparently, slide rules and pocket calculators have also been discarded in favour of ZX81's in at least five cases in the Catterick area.

The OWL noticed in a newspaper (he thinks it was a Leicestershire edition) a story about an amateur and his aerial mast. When he saw the address he immediately knew that it concerned RSARS member G3WKM. The article read: "A request from a Radio Amateur Emergency Network member for a radio mast at his home was turned down last week by Melton Council's planning committee. The mast has already been erected outside 3 Yew Tree Crescent, Melton, and the applicant, Mr. Ken Melton, who has been a radio amateur for 14 years, wrote to the planning department to support it. He has lived at the house for 4 years, using his apparatus continuously and had received no reports of interference to neighbours radio or television. The committee heard that the mast was clearly visible from the main estate road, Redwood Avenue, and the adjoining area. It was claimed that it presented a "visually intrusive element in the street scene to the detriment of the appearance of this residential area". Mr. Melton was advised that the refusal was without prejudice to the consideration of an application for a smaller structure similar in height to normal domestic VHF receiving aerials". (With acknowledgements to the original publisher - Ed.).

The OWL learnt from Les, VE3QE, that, towards the end of last year conditions for the RSARS Net on 21.170 MHz was very good with openings G ... VK over the North Pole, at the same time!. Geoff, VE3WP/1058 has been in the UK. Wonder where VE1BL/1560, Pete, has disappeared to after his bout of activity on the air? VE7KZ/0415, Steve, is reported to be sporting a 20 Meter Mono-Bander. RSARS membership forms have been sent to VE7AIN, VE6IH, VE3BX, VE7FBW (If we can find his right address!). VE3BIS has expressed interest in RSARS. G3ADZ, Dennis, is believed to maintain a listening watch around 14.065 MHz every Wednesday at 2300 hours GMT. If you prefer phone try 14.174 MHz every Sunday 1130 hours GMT. Mostly the DL/DJ boys but you'll be welcome. G3BPB received a copy of the "QST" article by VE3QE on the "Vertical Vee" Antenna and since putting it up has been much better copy in VE than on the dipole. The OWL hopes to get details for "Mercury". The OWL believes that Les, VK2NLE, recently found a long-lost cousin in VE-Land, last heard of in 1951. It is believed that the cousin's son is VE3EWO!. Talking of Les, it is understood that he has been having problems with the 820 (get out the big hammer, Les!).

Looking through some old Service docs recently the OWL came across the number T/22030596. "That was L/Cpl Bill Hitchcock's number, he remembered "I remember him when he was a Vehicle Mechanic in the Royal Army Service Corps with 582 Company at Preston in Lancashire. Oh, it must have been around 1948 - 1951". He then went on to "bend the Editors ear" by telling him that Bill was an SWL for 5 years and an amateur photographer for over 30. Also that he is G8TOM/1684 and is working for his G4. "By the way" he added "He's worked for London Transport for 30 years or so and is at present a radio operator on bus radio". (Editors Note - Nothing appears sacred or private where the OWL is concerned and I don't know where he gets all this info. However, you must admit that he's a worker!. Don't laugh - your secret may well be the next one to be divulged. He has promised to tell who actually did throw RSM "Tiger" Hart into the pond at Catterick in 1946, who topped up the generator oil by about 300% and who the amateur was that was warned off the road by the Dorset Police for operating /M from a motorised wheelchair, etc., etc., etc.). ZL4IJ/1018 is getting well-known in the Far East. The OWL tells us that Tom has a habit of maintaining a listening watch around 1330 hours GMT on 21.130 where he waits for RSARS members to appear. Not long ago with no RSARS and a quiet frequency, Tom was surprised to hear "ZL4IJ de JI3AFL K". Apparently, the JA's know that he sits there and if its

ND, give him a call! (It must be nice to feel wanted, Tom!).

24th January 1982 and the temperature at 113°F at 1400 hours. No, it wasn't Catterick, it was Yarra Glen in Victoria, Australia, the QTH of Jim VK3AZT. The OWL tells us that just before this the local fire siren sounded and there was quite a scrub fire blazing a few miles north of the town. At first it was not helped by a 45 knot gusting wind but WAS helped later by a thunderstorm and heavy downpour. The maximum temperature the following day was only 72°F. So you think we in the UK get some funny weather!!!.

At least one member has fooled the OWL - a letter received by the Editor giving a (correct) answer to the P 1954 coded puzzle was signed in code "Colonel Mossad (Rtd)". He didn't know who it was from but just muttered something about "X-Rays See Nothing". Ah well.

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

RECITATION.

By Roy G3ZFN/0968

The two quid fee once every year  
Throws my old brain-box out of gear  
Save me a lot of future strife  
Take twenty-five to last for life  
Hurl the cheque upon the floor  
Of your strength use every ounce  
E'en kick it with your big brown boots  
You'll find it will not bounce  
But I'll jump on you almighty hard  
If you forget my brand new card  
To get said card from you to me  
Please use the enclosed s.a.e.

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**VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - VOTE**

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As most members will know, each year an Award is made for the "Best Mercury Article". In order to decide whose name shall be engraved on the trophy, we ask all members to use the six votes that we present each year free, gratis and for nothing and vote for up to three articles that have appeared in the 7/81, 11/81 and (this) 3/82 editions.

Suggested usage of votes as follows:

|               |                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |
|---------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|
|               | Suggested vote usage |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |
| Article No. 1 | 6                    | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |      |
| Article No. 2 | -                    | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | ETC. |
| Article No. 3 | -                    | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - |      |

+

### Suggested usage

Please send your votes, to arrive before 1st June 1982, to the Editor (direct, or via other RSARS officers) quoting your RSARS number. In the past, the response to this request has been rather poor - let's make 1982 a bumper year, after all, the authors spent a lot of time writing the articles - perhaps YOU could spare a few moments to show your appreciation.

**DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW.**

#### FROM THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

A couple of local newspaper cuttings (which could well be headed "would you believe it?") sent along by Steve, RSARS 1676 - who is now N2DAN, please amend your membership lists - and which first appeared in The San Francisco Chronicle back in September last. We make due acknowledgements to "S.F.C."

From the Herb Caen column and headed "Handle with care": What's this, another case of S.F. police brutality? No, no, a thousand times no, nevertheless, the tale is a grabber, if hard to get a handle on. Happened 10 nights ago in a Tenderloin saloon, where a bit of a scuffle took place. The police arrived and ordered the participants to line up. One young man had such a large bulge in his pants that one cop figured that it had to be a gun and gave the protuberance a sharp squeeze, whereupon the young man let out a yell and fell to the floor, screaming "Omigod, you've broken it". Turned out he'd recently had a 19-centimeter anti-impotency insert - a penile implant - installed at Children's Hospital. The police, aghast, rushed him to the emergency room at Children's, where a Dr. B., striving manfully to keep a straight face, discovered no permanent damage to the plastic implement... This incident never would have occurred had the young man been able to afford the more expensive penile implant. That model has a hinge.

And a United Press report headed "Swiss Sexists Use Morse Code" and datelined "Berne" reads: A Swiss women's rights group, already suing a company of soldiers for using pictures of nude women for target practice, has uncovered what it called "another unsavory military activity".

A spokeswoman for the Swiss Organisation for Women's Rights said yesterday this latest "affront to women's dignity" involves the transmission in code of the vital statistics of waitresses in local restaurants and bars frequented by a group of communications trainees.

She said the commander of the army communications company based near Zurich became exasperated at the lack of enthusiasm his troops displayed for Morse Code practice, so he devised the plan to stimulate their interest. In the exercise, trainees talk back and forth in Morse Code, listing the local waitresses and rating their physical attributes one by one. The restaurant with the current highest rated waitress is chosen for the group's next "technical discussion".

"We don't know if this habit is widespread or confined to this one company," the spokeswoman said, "so we haven't decided whether or not to press charges".

In January, the women's group filed charges against army reserves in Fraubrunned, near Berne, for using photos of nude women for target practice. The case comes before Berne's Cantonal Court in a few weeks, when the organisation will ask the court to fine the company for "affronting the dignity of women".

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#### MORE OWL NEWS.

The OWL has been moping around recently like a sentry that drew the 1800 - 2000 and the 0001 - 0200 stags, because someone actually noticed his deliberate mistake when he was talking about the Iron Bridge in Brisbane in "Mercury" 7/81. George, VK4XY, dropped a line to say that the Iron Bridge was dismantled and replaced by a wider concrete structure in April 1969. This happened rather rapidly after a tram driver's strike which helped the City Council decide to abandon the tram service and change to diesel buses. The connection between these events is, in fact, that the bridge was used primarily for the trams to cross the river. No other heavy vehicles were allowed over the bridge. Also, Brisbane was again flooded in 1974 when the floodwater almost reached the 1893 level, but the new bridge took it in its stride. (The OWL insists that he knew this all the time, and was ""just checking". Thanks a lot, George - Ed.) (The OWL adds, "Did you know that Brisbane was named after Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane - no misprint, that's how he spelt Makdougall").

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## AMATEUR HAPPENINGS.

### G8NY/0486(?)

The following items were discovered in the "Mercury" file without a name or call-sign, but the OWL informs us that they are probably the work of the pen of G8NY/0486. - Ed.).

#### "Spring" was a little late!.

Before the war, during the old AM days, an elderly lady complained that my "voice" blotted out her radio. I promised to call and check if this was so and, before doing so, I hung an old alarm clock over my home-made transverse-current microphone and arranged for my wife to switch on the transmitter 15 minutes after I had left the house.

The receiver at the neighbours house turned out to be a crystal set plus a two-valve amplifier feeding a "Sterling Dinkie" horn type speaker.

We chatted away discussing the interference for fifteen (and eventually forty) minutes, with no sign of any trouble.

Just as I was saying that the trouble must be from some other source a terrible din came forth from the speaker - one could even hear the hair spring and escapement wheezing away in the clock!!.

A wave-trap in the aerial lead cured the trouble but did little to ease my embarrassment - Hi!.

Arriving back home I asked "What on earth happened?" only to get the reply from my wife "The insurance man called and I forgot that I had to switch on for a while!!".

#### Jumping cat Whiskers!.

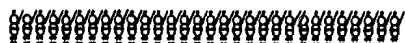
Around about the same time as the previous incident occurred I received some nasty threats from another elderly neighbour who complained bitterly that when listening to his crystal set, whilst in bed, he had to continually adjust his cats-whisker when I was on the air. He also said that he observed a little spark from the crystal at each interruption!!!!.

#### Illegal two-way operation?.

During the early days of 2LO I was busy making crystal sets for friends and relatives including one for an uncle who lived next door to me in North London.

Reception was good using the two long wire aerials which ran parallel to each other down the garden - good enough to feed small horn type speakers which could be heard by the family providing there was a quiet background.

The big surprise, and my first experience of two-way radio contact occurred when we found that when the 2LO carrier was on, but not modulated, two-way communication was possible between the two crystal sets by speaking into the loudspeakers!!!!.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Vince Lewis, G4DQP, has kindly donated a trophy to the G-QRP-CLUB. It will be awarded annually to the station who, using simple wire antennas not exceeding 10 Metres in height, makes the most outstanding contribution to the Winter Sports held in any particular year. In deciding who receives the Award the G-QRP-CLUB committee will take into account factors such as the power used, type of equipment, the amount of interest provided for other members and so on. If you are interested in QRP working and would like to see a reduction in kilowattish ionospheric pollution, why not join the G-QRP-CLUB (write Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV, 17 Aspen Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 7QX or ring 021-770-5918). A leading light in the G-QRP-CLUB world (and the person to whom Winter Sports Logs should be sent) is none other than G8PG/0026.

## HEARD ON THE BANDS.

"I thought the suffix was "XY". George thought it was "DMW" and the magazine gave it as "NPM". I got his name as "AXVAM". George read it as "PEDRO" and the book said "WUSYT". The book reported he was in IBOSRU, George reckons it was FUZUST, and I made it EL AZIDA".

### "OPERATION ARCHIBALD".

(It would appear that some very funny "goings-on" have been taking place in the Leicestershire area, which may be connected with references by Jack G4HLC to his SWL friend, Archie, being in the shack with him. Even the OWL didn't know about this one! - Ed.).

### The Opening Gambit.

Some clandestine activities, which had the makings of a modern spy thriller, commenced in late September 1981 to coincide with the Special Anniversary Activity Period organised by Les, VK2NLE.

Early morning telephone calls from Sydney to the United Kingdom involving VK2NLE and the XYL of G3NVK, cryptic comments on 80 Metres throughout north-east Leicestershire between Alf, G3UAA, Rita, G3NOB and Dick, G3NVK and various telephone calls made in the still of the night. Coded written messages passing between Groby, Loughborough and Melton Mowbray added to the mystery. A sudden air dash by the courier, Tom Stone, via Qantas Airlines from Australia to London and back and the involvement of British Customs and the Post Office to get the burden to the dropping box in the pork pie town of Melton Mowbray. A question was asked as to whether Qantas had a branch office in Long Clawson (where they do not even know that Montgolfier had filled his balloon) or Melton Mowbray (where they do not yet know that Bleriot had flown the Channel), resulted in even more cryptic remarks, this time involving Canada and 15 Metres.

### Knights Move.

Solicitors were engaged to help, following delivery of "the goods" which were by then in a secret store in a nearby village of Ashfordby and aid was obtained from a firm of livestock suppliers of some repute in the autumn fox-hunting county of Leicestershire. Accounts were settled and all was ready for the big event.

### The End Game.

The band of agents secretly met in the dark at a pre-arranged rendezvous and were chauffeured at high speed some 9 miles through the wooded countryside to Long Clawson. The merchandise was hidden in the rear of the car and cameras away from the sight of any prying constabulary who abound in the area in search of night poachers of the Duke of Rutland's pheasants. Rita's hitherto comely shape was slightly distorted by a hidden tape recorder and mike.

Silently the car was parked and the knock on the door of the Mayoral Chambers in Coronation Avenue startled Jack, G4HLC, - was this the KGB he wondered, gripping the operating position in fear, or was it, perhaps, Bert, G3XSN, down from Liverpool to collect that missing QSL card???

### Checkmate.

Entry to Jack's QTH was doubly difficult in that rumour had reached him of a posse of members coming to remove his rig, but eventually his XYL, Dorothy, was persuaded to let us in. A further recruit had been attached to the gang, Tom, G3HPJ, (Rita's husband) in his capacity as official photographer for the evening.

The preliminary greetings over, Jack's curiosity got the better of him and he demanded to know why we were there. Photographers assembled, tape recorder on, and Dick, G3NVK, approached Jack's chair and proceeded first to present him with the newest VK Call Book from VK2NLE and VK4XY. Jack was delighted and little knew what was to come; at risk of life and limb Archibald, the beady-eyed white snake, was removed from its covers and presented to Jack as a present from VE3QE and VK2NLE. Jack collapsed further into his chair in sheer delight. The "piece de resistance" however was the presentation of the Gold Mic Award 1981 from VK2NLE and VK4XY for all Jack's hard work and careful attention to the VK Nets which brought tears of emotion to Jack's eyes. He insisted in recording his grateful thanks to all concerned and the tape and photographs will be sent to Les, VK2NLE.

"OPERATION ARCHIBALD" - Contd.

Dorothy and Jack were delighted and moments later Jack's son, G4KRS came in and congratulated his father on the presentation. The party continued until the early hours in celebratory fashion.

G3NVK.

(Dick sent along copies of certain documents to support the transfer of Archibald, etc., from VK to U.K. and these are produced below. We thank the companies mentioned for allowing us to use their good names in association with this presentation. - Ed.).


## LEICESTERSHIRE LIVESTOCK SUPPLIERS

AND CATTLE AGENCY

Tel. Melton Mowbray  
3369

ASFORDBY VALLEY  
MELTON MOWBRAY  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE13 3SW

V.A.F. REG. NO. 115 2400 28



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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1981

CHARGES relating to temporary care, keep and custody of one large beady-eyed white Snake stated to be from Australia.  
quarantine period as required by the Rules of Royal Snake Advisory Research School for 21,170 hours.  
Subsequent control during loose period pending your collection of same for delivery to Long Clawson Mayoral Chambers.

SUPPLIED:  $\frac{1}{2}$  bale best Leicestershire bedding straw  
2 Quarts best Friesian Cream Milk  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  Mice  
1 injection of snake venom antidote for farm cat who delivered said mice  
Sundry live woodpeckers etc.



*The White House, High Street, Melton Mowbray*

VK2NLE VK4XY VE3QE

*To Oldham, Marsh & Son*

19 81

SOLICITORS

Sept. - Oct.

COSTS relating to advising you in the matter of the export (from the Antipodes) and the import (to the U.K.) by private courier of one, believed not dangerous, reptile (species *Lessimonsus Australis*, genus *Wethamus Canadius*): arranging for care and keep of same on arrival pending delivery to ultimate destination by handlers G3NOB, G3UAA and G3NVK. Corresponding with neighbours during this period concerning a missing chihuahua dog and consultation with local Veterinary Surgeon at the onset of sudden gastric spasm of said snake. Arranging for local Police search through Leicestershire undergrowth and dis-used railway embankments when the animal (which had been left in care of a baby sitter) disappeared: calling off search when snake discovered in bath water waste pipe of local Old Folks Home. Paid contribution to Matron thereof on account of extra nursing staff needed that night and sundry expenditure on tranquillisers

*Disbursements subject to V.A.T.*

*Value Added Tax at \_\_\_\_\_ %*

*Disbursements not subject to V.A.T.*

*Invoice No*

*Tax Point*

*V.A.T. Regn No*

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116 2766 91

*L*

## LEARN MORSE THE HARD WAY.

BILL, G4MQN/1431.

(The following article first appeared in "Slow Morse News" edited by G4BFJ, Mike Potter. Mike transmits slow morse every evening on 144.625 MHz and we acknowledge his permission to reprint in "Mercury" - Ed.).

It was like that in 1940 during the call-up. My job was Electrician's Mate, my hobby amateur radio with a good morse speed and an artificial aerial license. When I went up for interview the bloke scanned my paper patted me on the shoulder, and said, "The forces are crying out for men like you". I said "I'll get into Royal Signals or REME, won't I?" and he replied "No doubt at all, no doubt at all". When I got my papers it was for The Royal Scots Fusiliers at Ayr Racecourse.

I got to know that turf well. I marched round it, drilled on it, did bayonet practice on it and kissed it many a time when some mad b-----d chucked thunderflashes at us. Above all I shivered on it in vest and shorts doing PT when it was so cold that the birds wore foot muffs. Our quarters - three men to a racehorse stable, straw palliases and a blanket. And we got oats - lots every morning mashed into a concoction like- plastic padding laced with salt. I recommend that Army porridge - it gives one a manly jaw!!. After our square bashing and our bayonet fixing it was time for posting. The Sarnt Major lined us up, divided us in two and said "Left half for The Black Watch, right for the Seaforths".

So I became a Seaforth, kilt and all, and away to Rosshire. The officers were all utterly mad Scots clansmen and the NCO's all paranoics from Yorkshire. We marched - all over the Highlands. And we bayoneted!!. We punched holes in countless straw dummies screaming Highland war cries. The Seaforths were mad on bayonets. Every day the Sarnt told us the tale of the Scots who had gone in with the bayonet against Jerry tanks in Belgium. We muttered obscene comments - well under our breaths.

The most paranoid of all was Signal Sarnt McKay. He had a jaw that jutted out so far it suggested he was a clear case of acromegaly, and a biting sarcasm that could wither an oak in full bloom. He gathered us together one day and asked "How many of you bluidy idiots have heard of the morse code?". Like a right twit I lifted my hand and he said "Aye, laddie, this is a field telephone with morse. Let's see what you can do". I got hold of the key proudly and sent a string of morse at my best speed and ended with "Di'-Di'-Dah-Di'-Dah". McKay fixed me with a steely stare, stroked his jaw and said "Samuel Morse invented the code for communication, he'd turn in his bluidy grave if he heard that lot. You're going to learn, laddie - from the beginning, and I mean the bluidy beginning!". And we did.

Our lessons were out on a rugged mountainside, at first from a blackboard on which McKay traced the alphabet and we recited them. He would jab his swagger stick at us and bark out "K?", "L?", "Q?", and so on. Failure to answer promptly qualified for a spell of spud bashing.

Then we actually went on the key. Two field telephones connected by line. Now, army line cable is the deadliest weapon ever invented by H.M. Services. Its insulation defies attack by any cutting instrument and when it is bared it gets its own back by whipping round and digging its steel wires into the nearest portion of one's anatomy!. (This was probably D-3 cable which contained a number of steel wires for strength together with some copper wires for conductivity. It was later replaced by D-8 and later still by D-10. - The OWL). To get it wrapped round the terminal of a telephone set is an art - apparently firmly fixed it unwraps and the cable snakes off into the undergrowth!. Gradually, however, we learnt that morse was fun. While McKay was walking towards the other post one could send all sorts of obscene insults, which the operator on the other end acknowledged by sending "and you" and raising two fingers. We learnt fast - one word sent wrongly and McKay's stick would come down on one's fingers followed by a searing blast of Gaelic curses.

By this time we were up in the Shetlands at Sumbrugh Head - probably the most windswept part of the UK. It's no joke that they tie the sheep down to stop them being blown away!. The terrain was ideal for Part II of our Signal course - the Morse Flags. One has two flags and moves them smartly to the recognised positions for morse symbols. Performing this in a 75 miles per hour wind gives wondrous strength to the wrists provided one doesn't take off and scud before the gale. All

### LEARN MORSE THE HARD WAY - Contd.

G8's ought to learn morse flags - it was the first repeater system - receiving messages from one mountain top then turning to flag them on to the next. Then we learnt the heliograph, beloved instrument of the squaddies who fought up the Khyber Pass in red coats. Dependent a bit on the sun, one sets the sight on the distant target and flicks the lever to send morse. The flashes can be seen and read at unbelievable distances. (The OWL can remember when heliographs were used in India on bright moonlit nights!).

Coupled with the heliograph the indispensable Aldis Lamp completed our training as Regimental Signallers, that is, until the first pack radio sets arrived. This persuaded us of the immense advantage of being a Signaller: the squaddies carried full kit, rifle and blanket. We had the privilege of carrying full kit, rifle, blanket plus telephone sets, reels of cable, flags and pack radio sets!.

At last came the day when McKay presented us with the crossed signal flags to proudly sew on the arms of our battledress. Now we were ready for some remote battlefield in jungle or desert and a dusty or sweaty death.

Not for me the Western Desert and Alamein. Almost as soon as my signal flags were sown on that coveted posting to Royal Signals came through and thankfully I sailed from Shetland shores to the haven of the Secret Service Radio HQ in Bucks. But that's another story!.

~~~~~

### VK5YQ - AN APPRECIATION.

G4IXZ/1383.

"On 27th November 1981, whilst in QSO with Frank, G3DVL, RSARS 1628, I heard of the death of my old friend Ted Charles, VK5YQ. The news had been passed from Australia on the 21 MHz Royal Signals Net. The official "Silent Key" entry for "Mercury" will doubtless be sent by the Australian Section of RSARS, but as one privileged to be one of Ted's friends I should like to pay my respects.

We were both in Burma but did not meet until after the war when we found ourselves together in Malaya Command Signals stationed at Kuala Lumpur. Ted, who had been licensed since 1935, soon had a local call, VS2BF, and his enthusiasm and encouragement were responsible for my becoming licensed some months later as VS2BG. We had a 20 Metre dipole 80 feet high and 150 Watts but with our somewhat rare call-signs we managed to work the world.

I have received a letter from Joyce (VK5YJ), Ted's widow who I was fortunate to meet during a business trip to Adelaide. Joyce told me that Ted had been very ill for most of 1981 and had spent several days each month in hospital. Always resourceful, Ted had a FT-227-RB Base station set up in his hospital room and kept in touch with Joyce who had a hand-held Kenwood 2400. Typical of Ted he had not told me of this latest illness and it was a terrible shock when I learned of his death. In retrospect, I'm sure that Ted would have thought it fitting that the news of his passing should pass to friends by means of Amateur Radio.

Ted is now "Silent Key" but his son, Kim, VK5KIM, hopes to inherit his father's call-sign. I hope that such things are possible in Australia so that VK5YQ can live on.

I have lost a good friend and the Society a valued member.

Sincerely

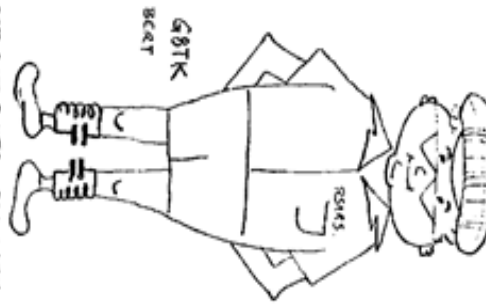
Frank Ford G4IXZ

(It is also known that two weeks after Ted's funeral, Joyanne, the eldest daughter received her full call-sign, thus Mum can now make the regular skeds on 20 Metres 11,100 miles apart) instead of struggling on 80 Metres (see previous "Mercury" - Ed.). The OWL also adds that Joyce and Ted would have celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 22nd December 1981).

~~~~~

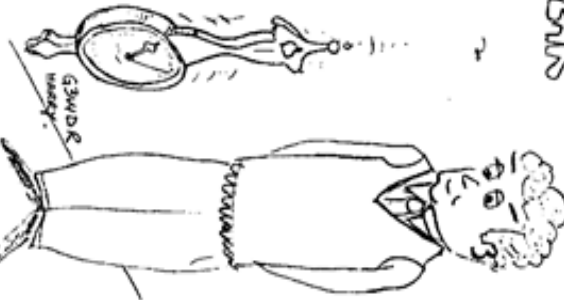
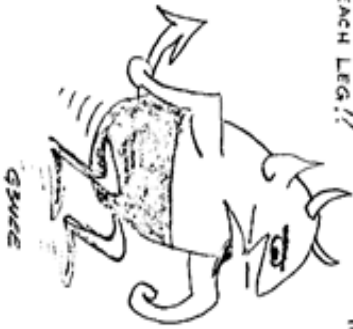
# HAPPY NEW YEAR

from  
Dick the Pen



I GET OUT QUITE WELL WITH  
TRAPS IN EACH LEG!!

G/NEE  
1982



THE BAROMETER HAS  
FALLEN AGAIN!!



CANT STAND  
SHORT NICK  
LEADS!

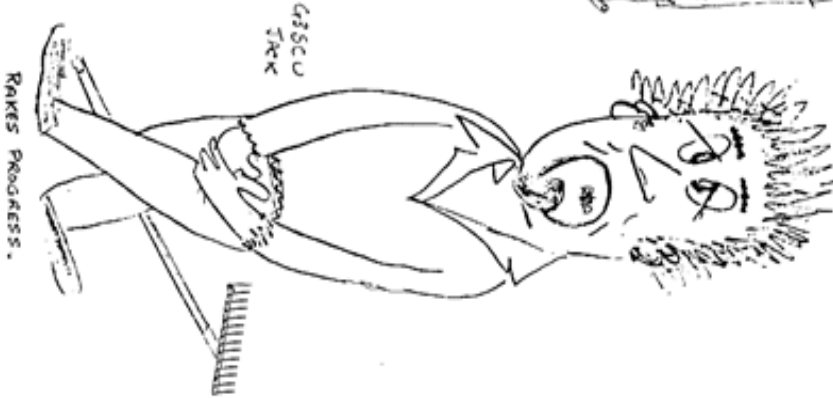
YOU WILL BE LATE ON  
THIS MORNING HES AFTER  
MIDNIGHT GOLD STAR!!



SHACK

JOB LIST  
DUST BIN  
SHOPING  
DUST WALK  
MAKE TEA  
ON CATOY  
WING UP  
FENCE SHIM  
CLEAN SHACK  
JOHN NICK  
WEDDING

THE THINGS ONE HEARS  
ON BOMETERS.  
IN THE UK.



RATES PROGRESS.

THE GOLDEN MICROPHONE (AND OTHER THINGS).  
G4HLC/RSARS 1184.

("Mercury" is always happy to hear from readers and/or members, whether it comes in the form of an article, a letter to the Ed., or constructive criticism. We are aware that, for some members, letter-writing can be difficult or even impossible. Several of our handicapped members have overcome this problem by sending along a cassette tape, which has been transcribed and published. This article was delivered by this means from Jack, G4HLC. Now Jack has a slight mobility/hands problem (although one would never realise this when listening to him on the air) although he is just about always "on parade" on 15 and is probably one of the better known RSARS members to our overseas members. It was these overseas members that started events that led up to this article. Any errors in transcription are the Editors!. - Ed.)

Jack starts his tape with a welcome to Dave, G3TAN, as Gen. Sec. ("I haven't worked him since he was in GI-land and had his antenna running up the chimney!"), says a farewell to Ray, G3EKL (and starts a rumour that Ray has become a civilian shop steward at Catterick!) and passes along his sincere thanks to all involved in the following story.

"The main reason for this tape is the "Golden Microphone" Award. There has been a lot said in "Jimmy" (the journal of the VK/ZL Chapter of RSARS) about Archie, my listener friend (see story elsewhere - Ed.) but little if anything has been said about the Golden Mic. which now stands on my mantelpiece. So perhaps I had better pass along a few details.

Even I don't know ALL the details about the origins and issue of this trophy. And I still haven't heard the tape that "the gang" so slyly made of me, so perhaps I am only opening my mouth in order to put my foot in it!.

I understand that Dick, G3NVK, (who must be well into his 470+ RSARS worked now!) has written a few words on the subject of Archie (see over - Ed), but don't know if he included anything about the Golden Microphone.

In case Dick has not mentioned it perhaps I should take this opportunity of saying a few words on the subject. The Microphone was a presentation from two Australian gentlemen, VK4XY George from Brisbane, and VK2NLE Les from Sydney. It appears that they decided to present me with this trophy for time spent around 21.170 MHz plus or minus (usually plus) keeping the overseas RSARS members company and the QRM away from the Net frequency since the early days of the VK/ZL Chapter. Reception of this trophy was, indeed, a most pleasant surprise for me. Material reward was the farthest thing from my mind and, in fact, had never been considered. I have always considered it reward enough to hear the many RSARS voices, both from home and overseas, on the Net and it has always given me satisfaction to know that I have been associated with them.

Of course, effort has its own reward and, at one time, I had begun to develop into a bit of a cabbage, and it was amateur radio in general and the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society in particular that "snapped me out of it". So, perhaps, I have had my reward, but I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all concerned via the pages of "Mercury", especially George and Les.

The trophy stands just over a foot high, is a microphone - BBC-type, I suppose - of golden texture with wings on the side, together with what looks like Eddie Charlton's blue snooker ball!. A very beautiful trophy and very much appreciated.

Whilst talking about George, VK4XY, may I also take this opportunity of wishing Del, and their daughter Kerri, all the very best - they apparently do a grand job in keeping George's shack clean and tidy judging by the photographs I have seen, which shows the shack neat and tidy with not a speck of dust to be seen and not a paper out of place. I can't imagine this being George's handiwork - it must have been Del and Duster!.

To Renee there in Sydney, I hope that by the time you read this you will have had your plaster removed. I know that for the last 18 months or so you have had a rough time and we all now hope that you are on the up and up, after your mobility problems including the broken ankle. These problems do not appear to have affected your writing ability and I enjoyed your article in "Jimmy". To both families mat I say "Good luck" - and keep the dog out of the pool!!.

### THE GOLDEN MICROPHONE (AND OTHER THINGS) - Contd.

I understand that George, 'XY, has a hand-held and operates /mobile, but how many members know that he actually goes Mobile on a roo?!! This he harnesses with an American-type saddle and this /M operation should be a sight worth seeing. It is also understood that the kangaroo has the same name as my Australian Listener friend - Archie. Perhaps that's where he got it from!. Unfortunately, the photographs of George's QTH that have been seen in the UK are "full-frontal (the house, not George - the OWL), and it is not possible to see the stables for George's 'roo at the rear.

One would think by the deep voice of 'XY that George was about 7 feet 6 inches tall (G3DVL still has problems understanding George, I believe) but I can inform readers that George is nothing like that - quite a dapper fellow really, and good looking (Careful, George, he must want to borrow something! - the OWL) and he also has a cracking family. I have several photos of George and Nellie and some of George taken during his Corps training, one or two taken "up the desert" (I notice that they had EPIP's well dug in!). I also have a delightful photo of him taken during his cycling days (or so he says!) when he had a fine pair of legs, hair right down to his forehead, curly locks and not an ounce of fat!!. All this together with a fine example of a racing cycle. I still wonder whether he borrowed it just for the photograph!. (Should you ever decide to visit the UK George, the OWL will be pleased to direct you to the G4HLC QTH!!!).

I hope readers don't think I'm rambling on, but I do have a nice Certificate permitting me to "ramble on" issued by Har-low, Har-low, Har-low" of QRM House. (He must mean Derek., G3RKN, of Harlow. - the OWL) This certificate is signed by G3RKN (he did - the OWL) and one of the Musketeers, G3JPJ. But perhaps I should get on to the evening it all started!.

The wife and I sat by a large open fire one Monday evening watching television when the 'phone rang. Dorothy answered it and putting her hand over the mouthpiece said "It's Dick". "Who the hell is Dick?" I said!. "Dick Winters, G3NVK" she said. "Oh, THAT Dick" I replied. So we switched the telephone over to the microphone on my POSSUM machine - and there was G3NVK. "I've been dodging you for a couple of weeks" he said. Now I thought that Dick had been busy at work, knowing him to be a Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages and knowing how busy this can keep one. "You are the cause of all this bother" he went on. "What have I done?" I said, almost protestingly. "If you'll be in on Thursday, we'll come around and tell you". Thursday was agreed and Dick rang off. "Now what have you been up to?" the XYL asked giving me a suspicious look. Waiting for Thursday was agony. My family got to hear about it and my son, who is licensed, opined that "they" would come and take away the rig!. I decided that there was only one thing to do - wait and see.

Thursday dawned - the XYL fussed over me. Clean undies, best trousers, clean socks, highly polished shoes. I was dragged out of bed and put in the "mobile", into the bathroom. Return with highly polished teeth and hair slicked down with a dab of Brylcreem. However, yesterday's shirt and my favourite old pullover. "Why?" I asked. "You'll have your clean ones after tea" I was told "You'll only get cigarette ash down them if you have them now!". True!.

I decided to listen to the bands and made my way to the rig - I might get some idea of what was going on. I had heard QANTAS mentioned previously and even someone ask if they had an office in Melton Mowbray!. Then the thought struck me - some time ago George, VK4XY, had jokingly said he would send over a kangaroo for me. He couldn't be serious -- could he?. Thoughts of quarantine and where was I going to keep it raced through my mind. Did he think that I, too, wanted to go /M?. I hadn't even not a saddle!. No, it couldn't be a 'roo.

Tea time came and went. The clean shirt and pullover was produced and put on. The tension mounted. I kept one eye on the clock and one eye on the door. Tick tock but no ding dong. Eight o'clock came and went. The fire blazed higher. I roasted, Quarter past eight - and nothing. One's imagination plays funny tricks at times like these. Had I imagined it?.

The XYL rose and left for the kitchen - in time to answer the back door. "Please come in" I heard, and in came the trim figure of Rita, G3NOB, Dick, G3NVK, Tom, G3HPJ and Alf, G3UAA.

### THE GOLDEN MICROPHONE (AND OTHER THINGS) - Contd.

I immediately became suspicious. Dick was carrying (and desperately trying to hide) a plastic bag. Alf was carrying a portable radio/cassette recorder which was switched to radio. "Strange" I thought "Leaving a radio playing when visiting someone". Confusion reigned (deliberately, I suspect) whilst introductions were made all round and everyone was seated. Then Alf was heard to say something about we'd better switch this thing off" which he proceeded to do and then placed the set on my table!. (It was only later that I found out that, as well as switching off the radio he switched ON the tape recorder!).

Small talk continued for a while and a number of photographs were taken. The suspense was killing me and in the end I had to ask "What IS this all about?". Out of the plastic bag Dick produced a VK Call-Book and presented it to me on behalf of VK2NLE and VK4XY and the Australian gang. Then came an even bigger surprise!. Out of the plastic bag came - ARCHIE. The most delightful cuddly (?) snake you ever saw. Five feet long, large black eyes, red and white and all coiled up. - it was a special type of Canadian snake. This was duly presented to me on behalf of VE3QE and also attached to the label were George and Ivy's call-signs. I have heard that in the Hamilton area each year they freeze these Archies and race them down frozen slopes like bob-sleighs, and I believe that the VK/ZL Chapter is giving a prize for next year's event.

But back to the evening in question. At this point the Golden Microphone was produced and I must admit that I was a little moist in the eye when I read what was engraved upon it. It really goes to show what great guys and gals there are in our hobby.

We had a great evening and I would like to record my thanks to all concerned with the arrangements which led up to such a happy event, and in particular Rita G3NOB, Dick G3NVK, Tom G3HPJ and David G3UAA (I wonder whether they will dare to print that!!) all of whom represented the VK and VE members so excellently.

It was a great relief to know that they had not come to remove the rig. My son-in-law rang at 11 p.m. that night to find out what it was all about. He never did say whether he was pleased or otherwise that the rig was still in place (He is the one who has to climb things for me to put my beam to rights).

When the crowd finally departed, Alf, G3UAA left me with his telephone number and his "RSARS Members Wanted" List, I guess he intends to catch up with Dick on the AM Ladder!!.

To all members concerned with the presentation of the VK Call-Book, Archie and the Golden Microphone, both Dorothy and myself would like to extend our sincere thanks.

(Of course, what Jack didn't know was that as well as himself, Dorothy, Rita, Dick, Tom and Alf, there was another visitor at the presentation the OWL. During the "goings-on" were going on, he had a look at the shack at G4HLC. There was the 401, the KW Eezi-Match, the Antenna Switch (which looked remarkably like the work of G3XYC), a Noise Bridge, an RF Meter and the "Special" Box. This box was built by Jack's son-in-law and was an adapted baby-alarm buzzer so arranged that Jack could send CW by breath pressure. Jack took (and passed) his CW Test using the "Special" Box which was later fitted to the rig. Outside is a Moseley Vertical on a post 11 feet 6 inches high.

Jack's first RSARS QSO was with John, G4DBR, when he joined a Sunday morning Net run by Cyril, GW3ASW, some years ago. In those days Jack was known as "The Hermit of Long Clawson" - HLC, get it?, but has since been "promoted" to the position of Lord Mayor of Long Clawson.

Around the HLC shack were various letters, cards and photos from a variety of RSARS members including many from overseas. N2DAN, Steve and W2AG as well as a lot of the VKs and VEs. Jack has quite a collection of photos of RSARS members and would certainly appreciate more, particularly on of GW3ASW.

Jack, who was 4860508 Corporal Cox, J., 2nd Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment saw service around the Middle East (Egypt, Syria, Crete, Tobruk, etc.) and in India and Burma, during WW II. Jack moved into Burma with 1771 Column of Wingates 2nd Expedition. Jack has been has

THE GOLDEN MICROPHONE (AND OTHER THINGS) - Contd.

heard to comment that during this trip he and G3UUG (RSARS 0086 - Ed.) were probably within 100 feet of one another but never met. This was at a place in Burma called Indaw. The OWL remembers it well. Jack's Brigade (the 16th) moved south from Ledo on February 5th 1944 and crossed the Chindwin on March 1st. On the 24th March, Wingate was killed in an air crash but the attack on Indaw took place on March 26th. It was unsuccessful, and 16th Brigade fell back from Indaw. Reinforced with elements of 111th and 14th Brigades a new attack was mounted and Indaw fell on April 27th 1944. Remember, Jack???)

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LATE LETTER.

JOHN G3EZZ/1384.

(Just as "Mercury" was about to go to press, a letter came in from John about the "Escape" note in the November '81 edition of "Mercury". Just another RSARS example of "It's a small world" - Ed.).

I am rather late in writing referring to the November 1981 RSARS newsy magazine! - Page 35 in particular. I really wondered what the piece entitled "Escape" had to do with Amateur Radio, surely not padding to fill space!?

I was interested to see it, in fact, because as a boy of 14 I well remember the sunshiny, crisp, frosty Saturday before Christmas 1940. My father, an L.M.S. Booking Clerk returned home about 12:30 p.m. for his half day having walked the three and a half miles or so at 5:15 a.m. that morning for the first passenger train from Codnor Park Station. On his arrival "Captain Van Lott" had also just arrived, ostensibly having crash landed his Wellington between our home and father's place of work. He wanted to return to his Unit at Dyce, Aberdeen, as quickly as possible and wrote details on an L.M.S. Telegraph Form which I still have (father died 4-1/4 years ago).

Rather to his dismay the police were contacted who duly arrived and satisfied themselves as to the claim and left. Royal Air Force Hucknall were then asked by my father to collect "the Dutch airman" as the police did not associate him with the escape from Swannick POW Camp during the night. However, having heard about this escape my father felt that something was wrong.

That afternoon father and I searched the area on our bikes but no crashed Wellington was seen or heard of in the area. It was Christmas Day when my uncle (a railway Signaller) returned home from duty to say it was now known that "Vann Lott" was an escaped POW.

Boxing Day - or the day after - father and I went over to Hucknall on our bicycles and passed the checkpoints by the aerodrome and mentioned the incident to the guards who confirmed that a German POW had almost got away in a Hurricane the previous Saturday morning!.

Nothing further came of this until 1953 when Kendall Burt contacted my father when researching for the book "The One that got Away" where the whole episode is accurately described (and also on the film which comes up on TV still - the last time was towards the end of last year) all except the fact the police comment "We thought you were an escaped prisoner of war" to Van Werra!.

I thought you may like to know about the above, even though there seemed no connection between your short piece and Amateur Radio - there is, in fact, a link!!!.

Sincerely

73

John Eaton G3EZZ/1384.

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DID YOU KNOW....?

The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared 1983 to be World Communications Year. The promotion and celebration aspects of WCY83 will be in the hands of the International Telecommunications Union.

The Falkland Islands might well have had a United States prefix. In 1831 the U.S. corvette "Lexington" sacked Port Soledad and carried away the chief settlers, but did not claim the islands.

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THE VICKERS - THE GUN THAT WOULDN'T QUIT.  
WALTER F. GILMORE.

(The following article first appeared in The Ex-G club Bulletin and we hereby make due acknowledgements to that Club for reprinting an excellent article. The author is Walter F. Gilmore, 20 Saratoga Drive, Oakland, New Jersey. - Ed.)

There are men alive today who remember it well. They sweated and broke their backs beneath its weight as they humped it over some of the worst terrain in the world. They cursed gun, tripod, ammo boxes and all the hardware that went with it. But, when it was emplaced and settled to its task, it became a blessed piece of ordnance. Belt-fed, recoil operated and water-cooled, it proved to be the best of its kind in the world.....this Vickers.

This amazing gun didn't care if its assignment was measured in minutes, hours or days. It chattered away while 26 components slammed and shuttled with the gunner doing a sort of mechanical St. Vitus dance. To enhance the picture a crank handle on the right side of the gun flew back and forth in a blur. A water-jacket containing 7-1/2 pints of water surrounded the barrel, which, in sustained fire, boiled and steamed..... a critical thing in hot climates. To alleviate this, a condenser hose led from the jacket to a jerry can containing water where the steam condensed to be used again. Still, a plume of escaping steam often marked a gun's position.

At the outbreak of World War II, this venerable old gun had already seen over fifty years of hard service. It had performed outstanding feats in the First World War and everyone fully expected it would go on doing so. The question of replacement never came up. To this day, its reputation is such, that it is held in almost the same awe and reverence as royalty. The surest way of being ejected from a meeting of British Army veterans is to merely suggest that somewhere, there just might be a machine gun as good as the Vickers.

That this adoration of the Vickers is justified can best be illustrated in the story of a particular feat of arms accomplished by this gun during the First World War.....one of many, with two years of stalemated trench warfare behind them the British laid plans for a massive drive on the Somme in August of 1916. It was determined that a certain area behind the German lines had to be kept clear of enemy movement for twelve hours. If this could be achieved, it would prevent enemy reserves from being brought to the front line. Ten Vickers were emplaced to cover the target area some 2000 yards distant and infantrymen were employed to store water and stockpile ammunition. At the appointed time the ten guns opened fire and kept up their incessant chatter for twelve long hours. At the end of that period, surrounded by spent brass cartridge cases, every gun was still in action.....each having fired an average of 8300 rounds (an hour - Ed) for a grand total of a million!. They had fallen silent only to change worn barrels and clear minor stoppages.

Observers reported the target area to be entirely free of enemy movement during that mad twelve hours.....which is not surprising!. One can only imagine what it must have been like to be on the receiving end of a million 303 bullets concentrated on a small piece of real estate. The noise of their arrival would be enough to crack the morale of the bravest.

During the second World War, a new generation humped it into battle from the dank Burmese jungle to the arid crucible of the Libyan desert. Up through Italy and across Europe it went, performing yeoman service.....its familiar corrugated water jacket gave way to a smooth one for ease of production, but it was still the same old Vickers.

In January of 1968 the last Vickers passed out of service with the British Army. It was retired with great ceremony and presented to Vickers Limited, the company that manufactured it. It now stands, prominently displayed, in the company Board Room. I doubt if there ever was, or ever will be, a machine gun looked upon with such grudging respect and adoration as the Vickers. The weapons of today, though efficient, lack the romantic "something", that inspires men to story and legend. I should know, because I was attached to the Vickers at a very tender age.

I was introduced to the Vickers when I was a youngster and a very impressionable lad I was. At the time, Hollywood produced a rash of films about the British army.....films like "The lives of a Bengal Lancer" and "The Last Outpost". I was absolutely enthralled when Gary Cooper and Victor McLaglen cradled a Vickers in their arms, tripod and all!. With teeth bared, they cleared walls and

### THE VICKERS - THE GUN THAT WOULDN'T QUIT - Contd.

towers of the swarthy, turbaned enemies of King and Empire. At that moment, I would have given everything I owned - including my bicycle - for a Vickers machine gun.

Like Gunga Din, I yearned to be a British soldier. After seeing one of those epic films, I emerged from the theatre in a trance-like state. My body might be in the Bronx, but my mind and spirit followed my imagination to far distant places beyond the seas. School, homework and stickball were dull fare compared to the battle for a mountain pass in India, or bringing the mad Mahdi to justice.

At night, before sleep took over, I slew the enemy by the hundreds.....I and my Vickers, in a hail of thrown spears, I mowed them down in a jungle clearing. Bullets kicked up sand-fountains as I carpeted the rolling dunes with fanatical tribesmen. Bedouins, Prussians, Zulus, Dervishes..... they all joined their Gods a hundred times over.....within the walls of my tenement bedroom. We were invincible.

Imagination knows no barriers. I flew over the Western Front in a Sopwith Camel armed with twin Vickers. When I had that red triplane in my sights and the guns froze, I'd seen enough war pictures to know that my Vickers hadn't let me down.....NEVER the Vickers. It was the fault of that bloody clod of an armourer who loaded the belts carelessly. When I landed and the riddled Sopwith collapsed, I flailed him with the belts that almost got HIM the girl. That's what MY hero did in the movies.

(Have you a memory, pleasant or otherwise, of a weapon, a piece of equipment, a posting, a personality? Drop a line to "Mercury" with YOUR story. - Ed)

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### FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

#### DAVE G3TAN

Subscriptions - All subscriptions should be addressed to The General Secretary at RSARS Headquarters. All Cheques/Money Orders/Postal Orders should be made payable to "THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY".

Stores - Stores should be ordered directly from the Stores Manager G3DBU. Cheques/Money Orders/Postal Orders should be made payable to "THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY" as above. Please, please do NOT send cash and always order stores direct from Bill.

Identification - There are now nearly 1800 membership numbers so you will accept this plea, I am sure. When writing to us at RSARS ALWAYS include your call-sign and/or RSARS number. It's a godsend if you do and a b-----'s muddle if you don't!!.

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### MORE FROM THE OWL.

VK5ZA/1418 (EX-VK5NKP) was the first VK Novice to receive DXCC as well as WAS, WAC, WAJA, JCC and was also the first VK5 Novice to receive WAZ.

Roger, VK4CD/1575, recently completed a 5000 Km trip from Townsville to Sydney and return working both static and /M.

When Ken, VK2VVV heard that VE3QE, Les, was on Sick Parade last year, he had a landline QSO with him to wish him well. (Incidentally, VE3QE was the first recipient of the RSARS VK/ZL Chapter Award).

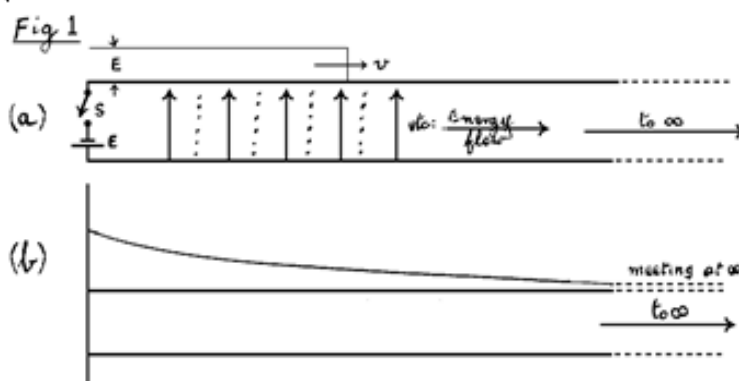
If you work YV5CEP remember that he is ex-Royal Signals of WW II vintage, but is NOT a member of RSARS. His name is Menelaos Vafiadis (and is known as "Manny") and he served in the 8th Army in the Middle East.

Joanne, junior op. at G3NVK, last year collected 4 "A", 3 "B" and 1 "C" pass in English Language, English Literature, Religious Studies, Geography, Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry in her "O" Levels and, for good measure, a Grade "A" in French in G.C.E. Congrats!.

It is possible to connect the end of an aerial directly to the output of a transmitter. This was, in fact, regularly done in the early days and often still is on Top Band. It is now customary to have the aerial remote from the transmitter and connect the transmitter to the aerial by a length of transmission line or feeder. Hand-held VHF portables have their quarter-wave whip aerials connected direct to the transmitter output but can also be connected via a transmission line to the remote aerial.

How does energy travel down a transmission line? Figure 1 represents a pair of infinitely long wires with no series resistance or parallel conductance. When the battery of voltage 'E' is connected to the wires by closing the switch 'S' in Figure 1(a) a voltage surge travels down the line with a finite velocity 'v' dependant on the inductance 'L' and capacitance 'C' per unit length of the line and given by:-

$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$



This voltage charges the capacitance of the line producing a current. The current in the wires produces an electromagnetic field between the wires and the voltage an electrostatic field at right angles to the wires. These fields produce an energy flow known as the Poynting Vector in the space between the conductors.

If the line is connected to an alternator as in Figure 1 (b) the current and the voltage will be attenuated by the series inductance and shunt capacitance of the line falling asymptotically to zero at infinity. Since no energy returns the line will behave as a pure resistance of value  $E/I$  as in Ohm's Law. This is given the symbol ' $Z_0$ ' and is called the "surge" or characteristic impedance of the line whose value is, in fact, equal to:-

$$\sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

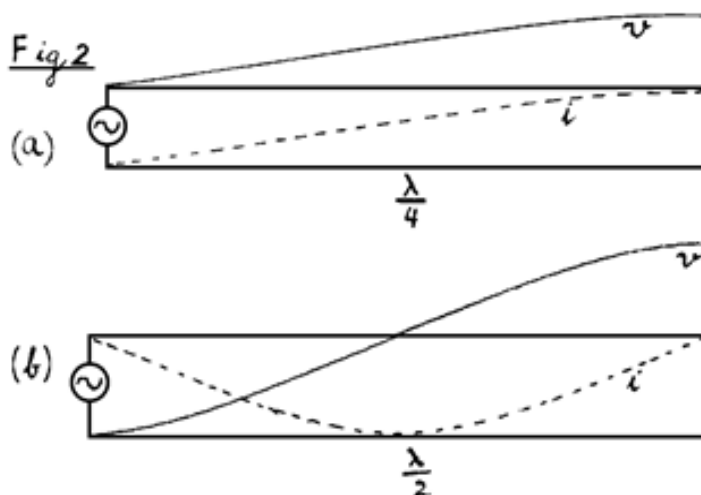
Now, anything infinite can only be a theoretical concept on this finite earth. However, if we connect a pure resistance of value  $Z_0$  across the end of a finite line this resistance will take the place of an infinite extension of the line and the distribution of current and voltage along the line will be the same as if the line were infinite. The terminated line will look to the transmitter like an infinite line of impedance  $Z_0$ .

$Z_0$  is independent of frequency. The power transferred to the line by the transmitter is  $I^2 Z_0$  where  $I$  is the current delivered by the transmitter. As the attenuation of the short length of terminated line is low most of this power will appear in the terminating resistance. Under these conditions there is a travelling wave on the line and current and voltage are in phase presenting a purely resistive load to the transmitter.

We have considered an infinite line. Now let us consider a finite line. If we connect our battery to an open circuited line the current surge will travel along the line until it reaches the end; but there can be no current at the end. Therefore the surge must be reflected in such a way as to produce zero total current, i.e. it is sent back  $180^\circ$  out of phase.

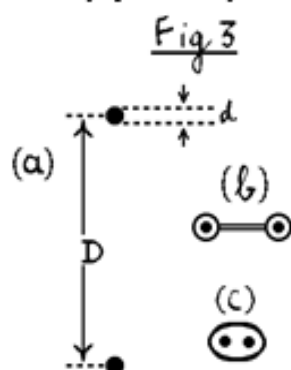
### TRANSMISSION LINES (FEEDERS) - Contd.

If an A.C. generator is connected to the line the same thing happens with the production of standing waves. A standing wave is composed of two components, the forward and reflected waves, which assist at some points and cancel at others. Since the line has no energy absorptive properties it must act as a pure reactance to the generator. The current and voltage must be  $90^\circ$  out of phase so that when the voltage is a maximum the current will be zero and vice versa. Figure 2 illustrates this.



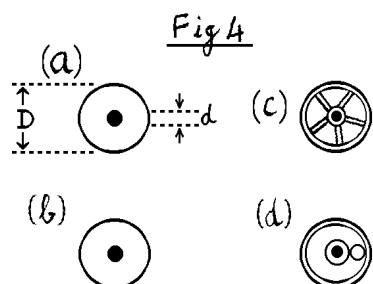
When the line is less than  $\lambda/4$  in length it will look like a capacity (-ve reactance). At  $\lambda/4$  it will look like a series tuned circuit zero reactance and very low resistance, i.e. a short circuit. Between  $\lambda/4$  and  $\lambda/2$  it will look like an inductance (+ve reactance). At  $\lambda/2$  it will look like a parallel tuned circuit, zero reactance and very high resistance, i.e. an open circuit, and so on for each odd and even number of quarter wavelengths.

Having studied in simple terms the theory of an open wire transmission line we see that it can look to a transmitter either like a very high or very low pure resistance, a +ve or -ve reactance or complex impedance depending on its length and termination. If correctly terminated the transmitter will see the characteristic impedance of the line. The open wire line is not widely used despite its efficiency particularly when used with the appropriate A.T.U. to feed a simple wire dipole



operating on several bands. When used in this way an open wire feeder is an integral part of the resonant aerial system. Other types are considered more fashionable and simpler to use. Let us see what types of line are available to and normally used by the amateur. Balanced feeders are illustrated in Figure 3. (a) is the open wire line already described. (b) is the so-called ribbon feeder in which a pair of wires is separated about  $1/3$ rd of an inch by a thin web of insulating material, normally polythene. (c) is a close spaced pair, about  $1/16$ th of an inch spacing moulded into polythene. When a balanced feeder is to be connected to a transmitter with an unbalanced output a balanced to unbalanced transformer preferably in the form of an A.T.U. must be used.

It is important to know the surge impedance of your line. This is given for parallel two wire lines by  $Z_0 = K \cdot 276 \log_{10} D/d$ , where  $K = 1/E$  and E is the average dielectric constant of the medium between the conductors. For polythene  $E = 2.2$ , for air  $K = 1$  and for polythene  $0.675$ . For the ribbon feeder the dielectric is partly air and partly polythene and K will lie between 1 and  $0.675$ . Open wire lines are usually built to  $Z_0 = 600$  Ohms ( $D/d = 70$ ), ribbon feeders to 300 Ohms and close spaced twin to 75 Ohms.



The transmission line most commonly used in the Amateur service is the concentric or co-axial cable, Figure 4. When co-axial cable is used at high power fixed stations the inner conductor is a copper bar supported within a copper tube by ceramic spiders or pillars well spaced out so that the dielectric is almost entirely air. For low power mobile and amateur service, flexible cable is used. The centre conductor is usually stranded for flexibility and the outer conductor braided for the same reason. The dielectric, polythene, is either (a) solid, (b) cellular, (c) in the form of a star or (d) a spiral cord.

The semi-airspaced versions have lower losses and are lighter and more flexible. The formula for the surge impedance of co-axial cable is  $Z_0 = K 138.5 \log_{10} D/d$ , see Figure 4, where  $D$  is the internal diameter of the outer conductor and  $K = 1/E$  as before. These cables are manufactured to impedances of either 75 or 50 Ohms. Semi-airspaced cables are recommended for indoor use because of their flexibility and lightness. Out of doors you are strongly advised to use solid dielectric cable. It is very difficult to make a water-tight seal at the top of a co-axial feeder. Once water gets into it the losses increase very rapidly.

Having considered the types of feeders available we must now consider the transference of power from the transmitter to the feeder and from the feeder to the aerial. The transference of power from the transmitter to feeder is governed by the "Maximum Power Transfer Theorem" which, in the simplest terms, states that the maximum power is developed in the load when the resistance of the load equals that of the generator, Appendix 1. Transmitters are generally designed to work into a load of 75 or 50 Ohms non-reactive. Suitable co-axial cable presents such a load provided it is properly terminated. A dipole carefully trimmed at the working frequency will provide such a termination. When compromise aerials such as trapped dipoles and the G5RV are used the match is only likely to be reasonable on one band. On all other bands the load is likely to have a resistive component other than 75 Ohms and be more or less reactive. A high S.W.R. must be expected.

Solid state output stages are likely to be damaged by the voltage produced by a high S.W.R. in feeders, Appendix 2. They are therefore designed only to give full output when the S.W.R. is very close to unity. Except in the case of a co-axial cable terminated by a carefully trimmed simple dipole it is essential to use an Aerial Tuning Unit to tune out any reactance in the feeder and transform the resistance to 75 or 50 Ohms. This was fully discussed in my article "The How and Why of the Reflectometer" published in "Mercury" for January 1965 so will not be repeated here. It

can be seen that the choice of type of transmission line to be used must be made taking into consideration not only the convenience of installation but the type of termination with which it is to be used.

#### Appendix 1.

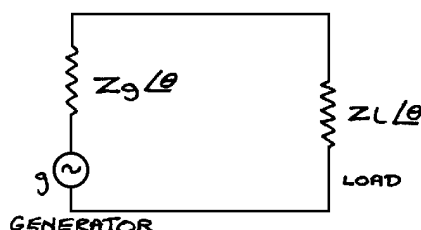
##### Maximum Power Transfer Theorem.

Maximum power is developed in the load when:

$$Z_g \angle \theta = R + jx$$

$$Z_L \angle \theta = R - jx$$

i.e. when the resistive components are equal and the reactive components are equal and opposite and therefore cancel out as in a tuned circuit at resonance



## Appendix 2.

When the line is short circuited reflection is complete, the travelling wave is cancelled out and only standing waves remain. The S.W.R. is thus infinity. When the line is terminated in its own  $Z_o$  there is no reflection and thus no standing waves. The S.W.R. is then said to be unity.

|        |   |                   |                                        |     |     |   |
|--------|---|-------------------|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| S.W.R. | = | $\frac{1+r}{1-r}$ | where r is the reflection coefficient. | r   | =   | 0 |
| "      | " | "                 | When the ratio Zl to Zo is unity,      | "   |     | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " 1·5                          | r = | 1/5 | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " 2·0                          | r = | 1/3 | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " 3·0                          | r = | 2/5 | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " 5·0                          | r = | 2/3 | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " 9·0                          | r = | 4/5 | " |
| "      | " | "                 | " " " " " ∞                            | r = | 1   | " |

FROM ROBERT EHRLER (RSARS 1636) comes the following reply to G3BGM from the last "MERCURY".

I enlisted in the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, in March of 1942, and never saw one piece of Radio Equipment and when I did overseas nothing was ever explained to me. I was self taught and being an Amateur for 12 years before enlisting was a great help, and I was active for these years and had worked over 100 countries before the war started in 1939. I knew how to operate and also to fix the radio gear in the army. I was in the US for 4 months and overseas for 38 months. When I was getting ready for the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, they found out that I had not even fired a rifle in the army! So they took me out some place so I could fire my Springfield. I was getting smart quickly as I had my own Springfield at home for many years. I don't claim to be smart but with a little brains issue it doesn't take long to get smart in Combat. II Corps linked up with the English 8th Army east of Gafsa I guess in late March or early April in 1943. Lets face it after the North African campaign in Tunisia I never did find out what happened to Lt. Gen. Anderson of the English 1st army. We had a clinker at II Corps before we got Patton.

Kind regards. W2AG (RSARS 1636)

## THE VERTICAL VEE ANTENNA.

VE3QE/1526 & G3BPB/1616.

(Being details of tests and experiments carried out on the Vertical Vee antenna  
by VE3QE and G3BPB.).

Most amateurs are familiar with the properties of the inverted Vee HF antenna. The inverted Vee is simple and inexpensive to construct, provides a good match to 50 Ohms co-axial cable and produces a quasi-omni directional horizontally polarized radiation pattern when used at its fundamental frequency. An introductory chapter on antennas by Kraus points out in a generic sense that a cylindrical vertical Vee can be expected to yield a broader usable bandwidth than the corresponding dipole. So it appears a vertical Vee versus other common types of antennas offers the potential for significantly improved performance. It is surprising that this type of radiator has not been described in the antenna manuals currently on sale.

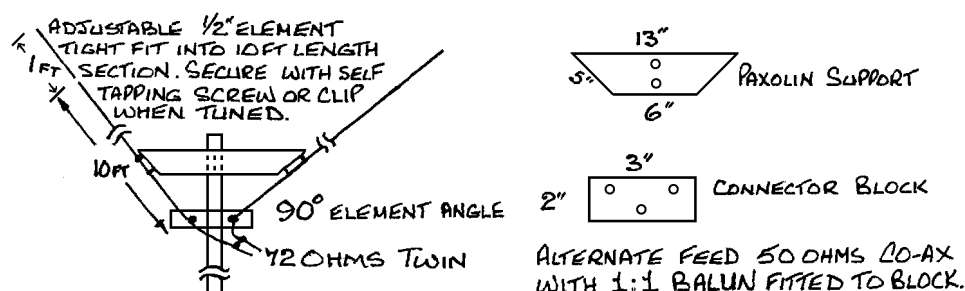
The inverted Vee whilst providing excellent performance does suffer from deficiencies. - ground effect and influence of feed point impedance if supported by a metal mast. Since the antenna is centred the balanced currents may be induced on the transmission line even if a balun is used at this point. Finally, sloping the elements downwards (inverted Vee) increases the likelihood of patristic losses in nearby grounded objects. A vertical Vee would be much less affected by the above factors.

In addition a vertical Vee provides the additional advantage of increased antenna height, simple construction (only one central support is required when self supporting aluminium elements are used), and has the capability of rotation. Equipped with the above facts and informative constructional data supplied by VE3QE, G3BPB decided to "have a go" at constructing such an antenna.

Time taken : about 4 hours. Approximate cost: £8 - £9. Tests were then arranged with VE3QE with the initial contact being made on 21 MHz using a dipole orientated NW - SE. After communication was established the vertical Vee was substituted for the dipole and an identical report was received from Canada.

It should be noted that for this test the inverted Vee was at ground level. Half an hour later after dismantling the dipole from a 15ft mast and substituting the inverted Vee (which put it at about 17 feet), a further contact was made with the surprising report of 2 full S-points increase in signal strength. Contacts were later established with RSARS members in Hong Kong, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Norway, PAØ, New York, Alberta, New Brunswick, plus other contacts with VE9, VK7, 8P6 and PY. Later tests, rotating the Vee, proved the antenna to have a fair degree of directional properties. Tests have now been carried out over a period of 3 months with consistent reports. We hope that this short article will help members to construct a cheap reliable antenna. Tests have shown that feeding the antenna with 72 Ohms twin feeder is better than using co-axial cable.

G3BPB would like to thank VE3QE for the help and perseverance given during these tests. It is hoped that our next project will be a trapped vertical Vee for 10 - 15 - 20 metres.



## THE LADIES OF SOHO.

LES G8NY/0486.

(Yet another article written by Les which first appeared in the journal of the Dover Radio Club. We are indebted once again to the D.R.C. for reprinting this interesting article which incidentally, is sub-titled "A close encounter". Why? - read on. - Ed.)

Recent comments and criticisms on TV and in the Press regarding the many sex shops and activities of the "Ladies" in the Soho area remind me of a very famous "Lady" and her shop in Lisle Street, Way back in the 1920's.

Mother Raymonde, as she was known, established a radio store which, together with another close by known as "Will Day's", will surely be remembered by many Old Timers.

Mother Raymonde's store catered for the home constructor and for the experimenter and I well remember purchasing items such as the plates, spindles and spacer washers for assembling .0005 mfd variable condensers, etc., dull and bright emitter valves, filament rheostats, HT and Grid Bias batteries plus goodness knows what else.

The sales technique was quite something. There was usually a live orchestra playing in the store amongst palm trees and flower displays, bowls of cigarettes on the counters from which customers could help themselves. Whilst customers were looking in the store windows a concealed camera would take photographs which would later be displayed in the windows. Anyone appearing in the photograph would be eligible to receive a radio component as a prize!. By the way, most deliveries from the store were made by taxi!!.

Mother Raymonde was a very fiery lady and the girl assistants were often in tears after a display of her temper. I was involved in an embarrassing conflict with her.. I was working for an electrical engineering firm at Cricklewood and had to deliver a large parcel of four-pin valve holders. I travelled to Lisle Street by bus and handed the parcel to Mother Raymonde who immediately opened it up and proceeded to check the holders by inserting a valve. Most seemed to be OK but a few were very tight - she bundled all the holders up, pushed her way through the customers to the door with me in close pursuit, shouting "Do you call these bloody valve-holders?" and then flung them out into the middle of Lisle Street!. I will always remember scrambling among the traffic to recover them!.

On another occasion I was in the store, as a customer, when a representative from Hertzite Crystals came in and opened up his case on the counter. The crystals were each packed with a cats-whisker and a small pair of tweezers in a small orange coloured tin. "Ah!" said Mother Raymonde "I've been waiting for you". She then selected about a dozen tins and took them over to the window display where she put them on sale at about half the price she paid the rep. for them saying "That's what I think of your bloody crystals". What it was all about I have no idea!!.

Some time later I purchased a sixty volts (HT) battery but upon leaving the store someone gave me a push and I dropped the package!. Arriving home I opened up the parcel and out fell a load of pitch followed by all the 1-1/2 volts cells looking like a string of sausages!. After I had cleared up the bits of pitch from the carpet my mother, who could also be tough, took pity on me and said that she would take the thing back and get it replaced. We went back but I went "chicken" and refused to go in. Anyway, my mother eventually went in and after a time (and much shouting from within) emerged still with the parcel of bits and looking very pale and shaky!!. Must have been a clear case of assault and battery. - Hi!.

Despite all this it was a wonderful place for finding the required radio bits and for meeting up with the amateurs. Fortunately, most of them were so excited or overloaded with their purchases on leaving Mother Raymonde's that the invitations from the other Lisle Street ladies fell upon deaf ears!!.

73 Les. G8NY



## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

### NEW BOY?

Not really. For about 12 of the 20 years in which I have been a member of RSARS, I have been involved in something to do with subscriptions, or typing, running off, stapling, label licking or running a nomadic 'Arab Radio' tent with Kit Hall on a G3CIO/G4RS set up. So taking over from Ray, G3EKL was not as traumatic as it could have been, had I not been around for a while at Catterick and had Ray not have been so totally dedicated to RSARS that he handed me an excellently organised and splendidly presented Society. Its one which you can all be proud of, it is envied by both our brother services as an example of what can be. For the next three years if I can keep our standards as high as they are now then I will have done a decent job. For those standards you have to thank Ray Webb. I am sure that you will make your voices heard in congratulating Ray on his retirement and wishing him all the very best of luck for his future, which will be spent in part not a million miles from the G4RS shack!

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEW IDEAS?

Well, maybe. I have been connected for many years with youth activities. Having reared five harmonics and a sister there wasn't much choice! You will all agree I know that our young radio enthusiasts, our computer hobbyists and our electronics kit specialists are all prime targets for recruitment to a Society which must keep abreast of the times, move with the state of the art, even though there will always be a mature and responsible approach to our hobby. Currently we are heading for a natural gap which is occurring in our membership and we must all get out off our backsides and recruit young blood to our Society. We need youngsters, preferably serving in Signal Units or with a strong Royal Signals connection. Cadets, Juniors, Apprentices, sons and daughters. It is from these ranks that we will find our new callsigns, and even if some of them never take the ticket, we must welcome them into our clubs and broaden our outlook.

If you are a serving member, I call on you now to get out among your soldiers and recruit youngsters to the RSARS. If you are a non serving member then I call on you also to get out and use your influence, your contacts, your experience and your personality to recruit suitable youngsters from TAVR, Cadets, from Signals connected organisations. If you both DO IT then we will still be here in the nineties. If you DON'T DO IT then we will all BE ninety and RSARS will be dwindling down to a precious few.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE MERCURY

Those of you who really value the RSARS will agree that "Mercury" is a vital link with your friends, your amateur radio colleagues abroad and in many cases your link with your own personal history and that of the Royal Signals. The "Mercury" has been built up into a magnificent magazine. A lot of what RSARS is about hangs on the continued production of "Mercury". If Jack Cooper finally hangs up his editorial typewriter then we are going to need a new man. Is there one out there who will contact me (or Jack) and volunteer?? Its hard work long hours, no pay and few thanks. No one loves you and you never please everyone for much of the time. Unless you step forward, the next "Mercury" will be the last. Perhaps you all should sit down and write to Jack and ask him to stay?

+++++++ 73, David Llewellyn, G3TAN ++++++

## AWARDS AND CONTESTS - A BIT MORE!

1981/82 559 Contest - results, hot from compilation show even higher scores. The logs received all commented on increased activity, including the working of new members for the first time. Also the enjoyment received from the friendly rivalry in the various contest legs; a pleasant change from the vicious frequency grabbing sometimes experienced in larger contests.

The results are:

|             |   |                    |                  |
|-------------|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 559 Trophy  | - | Overall Winner     | G3UAA member 454 |
| Le Touquet  | - | CW Section Leader  | G3UAA member 454 |
| 559 Contest | - | SSB Section Leader | G3NOB member 613 |
| 559 Contest | - | SWL Winner         | No claimant      |

The various scores producing these results are:

| CALLSIGN |     | MEMBER    | CW        | SSB | MULTIPLIER | TOTAL |
|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----|------------|-------|
|          |     |           | POINTS    |     |            |       |
| G3UAA    | 454 | <u>49</u> | 89        | 125 | 263        |       |
| G3NOB    | 613 | 44        | <u>95</u> | 115 | 254        |       |
| G3NVK    | 138 | 44        | 89        | 95  | 228        |       |
| G3PJB    | 508 | 41        | 66        | 90  | 197        |       |

Other logs were received but reported activity on less than four legs so I've not included them in the table. Please don't get the impression that I don't need the smaller logs - they are very useful for cross checking the leaders total! As you can see the winners run pretty well neck and neck.

G3UAA's set-up was an FT101E into a variety of antennas. Alf started with half wave dipoles wound around his roof space. Then, despite the severe wx he managed to erect both dipoles outside for the last two legs.

G3NOB operated a TS180S into a trapped dipole - Rita commented on peculiar cndx during the Forty metre leg in January but otherwise did well with the maximum SSB score for 559 contests to date. Our congratulations to you both and perhaps NVK will be able to offer better opposition once he has bought his new HF rig!!

73. G3EKL.

STOP PRESS AWARDS \*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS AWARDS NEWS \*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS AWARDS

=====

IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE OBVIOUS SHORTAGE OF R.S.A.R.S. MEMBERS AND CONTACTS WITH SAME IN THE CONTINENT OF SOUTH AMERICA, YOUR AWARDS MANAGER HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT CONTACTS, PROPERLY MADE AND AUTHENTICATED, WITH R.S.A.R.S. STATIONS SITUATED IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SOUTH OF THE TROPIC OF CANCER AND TO COUNT THESE AS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AMERICA FOR R.S.A.R.S. AWARDS PURPOSES.

=====

STOP PRESS AWARDS \*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS AWARDS NEWS \*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS AWARDS

\*\*\*\*\*

## CALLING SINCLAIR ZX 80 and ZX 81 Owners:

It seems that there are a growing number of you in the Society, quietly percolating away there with the Sinclair on the table and the rig burbling in the background. Why don't you come forward and start a computer chat section either here in "Mercury" or on the air or both??

If you're interested in swapping ideas and hints and tips on programmes, game applications or bugs, then let me know at HQ RSARS. By the way, if you have the 16K RAM for your Sinclair ZX81, have you had whiteout problems with it? Or is it a programming fault in the NOTEPAD cassette produced by Sinclair?

Information to the General Secretary

# REALLY CONSTABLE HONEST

ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
MEMBERS SUPPLIES

MEMBERSHIP LIST - Showing all members call-signs. FREE for large SAE - 100 gramme Postage rate.

AWARDS & CONTESTS RULES - Containing details of all RSARS Awards, Trophies and Contests etc. FREE for SAE - 100 gramme postage rate.

HEADED NOTEPAPER - Notepaper headed "ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY" in blue with space for call-sign, RSARS Number etc.

BASIC QSL CARDS - Standard postcard size, two varieties, HORIZONTAL or VERTICAL. Both are printed blue on white card, the printing allows for:-

- i) A SWL report
- ii) Acknowledgement for a SWL report
- iii) A QSL for a contact on CW, AM, SSB, FM, RTTY or SLOW-SCAN.

a. HORIZONTAL - On one side - a figure of "MERCURY" on the left, the remaining 2/3rds carrying QSL information. Reverse side is blank.

b. VERTICAL - a figure of "MERCURY" and the wording "MEMBER STATION" and "ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY" on the front and the QSL information on the reverse.

PLAIN BADGES - Standard "Diamond" shaped badges in Light Blue, Dark Blue and Green enamel, with "RSARS" lettering across the centre.

CALLSIGN LAPEL BADGES - As above but with lapel pin and containing scroll which can take members call-sign, RSARS Number, etc. Maximum of 6 letters/figures/spaces.

RSARS TIES - A crimplene/terylene tie in Dark Blue or Green or Wine. A quality tie produced by a leading manufacturer. Alternate angular rows of figure of Mercury and RSARS "Diamond".

RSARS LOG BOOKS - 40 Pages, 1,000 entries, with all normal columns plus an extra unnumbered/unheaded column for recording RSARS Number, WAB Area, DOK etc., etc.

RSARS DYMO BADGES - Pin fixing, double or single row white plastic frames, allowing fixing of Dymo Tape with 16 letters/figures/spaces per row. Tape available in a variety of colours. Can be printed for XYL, YL, JUNIOR Op., etc.

WINDSCREEN STICKERS - Adhesive clear backing carries RSARS diamond in Light Blue, Dark Blue and Green with "RSARS" across centre.

OVERPRINTED QSLs - These are either of the Basic QSLs overprinted in Red, Blue, Black or Green. Overprint shows members RSARS number, Call-sign (or BRS Number, etc.) Name and Address. Minimum order quantity - 500.

GREAT CIRCLE BEARING AND DISTANCE CHART - These Charts are computer produced and are based on a members EXACT QTH. Members must supply the Latitude and Longitude of their QTH ( in Degrees and Minutes only - NOT MAP REFERENCES). Charts are then produced showing the Town/City name, Country, name, Latitude. Also the bearing distance from members QTH in Nautical miles, and Kilometres. Also the bearing (with respect to True North) from the members QTH to the distant QTH and vice-versa. There are over 1,800 locations on the Chart.

STORES DELIVERY - Delivery is by return except for overprinted QSL cards and call-sign lapel badges, which take two to three months for completion and the Great Circle Bearing and Distance Chart which takes about a fortnight.

ALL ORDERS TO SOCIETY STORES MANAGER  
SEE "MERCURY" INSIDE COVER FOR ADDRESS

RSARS STORES PRICE LIST - Effective 1 JANUARY 82

|      |                                                                          | <u>Price</u> |    | <u>UK/BFPO<br/>Postage<br/>&amp; Packing</u> |    | <u>Price<br/>+<br/>P &amp; P</u> |    |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----|----------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|
|      |                                                                          | £            | p  | £                                            | p  | £                                | p  |
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| 500  | Sheets of Headed Notepaper                                               | 5            | 00 | 1                                            | 80 | 6                                | 80 |
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| 250  | Index Cards                                                              | 1            | 20 | 1                                            | 40 | 2                                | 60 |
| 500  | Index Cards                                                              | 2            | 50 | 1                                            | 80 | 4                                | 30 |
| 1000 | Index Cards                                                              | 4            | 50 | 2                                            | 10 | 6                                | 60 |
| 100  | Basic QSL cards                                                          | 1            | 30 |                                              | 70 | 2                                | 00 |
| 250  | Basic QSL cards                                                          | 2            | 75 | 1                                            | 25 | 4                                | 00 |
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| 1    | Flat RSARS Badge (enamelled)                                             |              | 65 |                                              | 25 |                                  | 90 |
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| 3    | RSARS Station Log Books                                                  | 1            | 65 |                                              | 70 | 2                                | 35 |
| 5    | RSARS Station Log Books                                                  | 2            | 60 |                                              | 90 | 3                                | 50 |
| 1    | RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Book                                      |              | 40 |                                              | 25 |                                  | 65 |
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| 5    | RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Books                                     | 1            | 60 |                                              | 90 | 2                                | 45 |
| 1    | RSARS Dymo Badge (1 Row)                                                 |              | 25 |                                              | 25 |                                  | 50 |
| 1    | RSARS Dymo Badge (2 Row)                                                 |              | 40 |                                              | 25 |                                  | 65 |
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|      | Great Circle Bearing/Distance Chart                                      | 1            | 50 | 1                                            | 00 | 2                                | 50 |

AWARDS AND CONTEST RULES - FREE ) Please send SAE  
) 12" x 8" stamped  
MEMBERSHIP CALL-SIGN LIST - FREE ) @ 100 gramme rate  
NB. POSTAL RATES ARE NOT OVERSEAS RATES

"SIGNALS NETS" or Where you might find them!

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

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

L.F. NETS - SSB

|          |      |                  |                                              |
|----------|------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 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 or 3720kHz  | CONTROLLED NET.                              |

L.F. NETS - CW

|           |      |                               |                                                                                  |
|-----------|------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY    | 1000 | 3565 or 3526 kHz              | European natter net                                                              |
| WEDNESDAY | 1930 | Prim 3565 kHz<br>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

|       |      |             |                                                                                                                |
|-------|------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DAILY | 1230 | 21170 kHz ± | Though primarily a CONTROLLED NET the UK controller usually requires an overseas station to assume co-control. |
|       | 1500 |             |                                                                                                                |
|       | GMT  | 21290 kHz ± |                                                                                                                |

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

10113, 14065, 14175, 21130, 21175, 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 Please notify locally arranged nets for Mercury publication.

In E Midlands please listen S14 (145.35 MHz) each Wednesday 2000 Hrs

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 TRANSMISSIONS - From G4RS each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 1900 Clock time on 3565 and 144.525 MHz (S21) omnidirectional.

-----  
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 G1GHL 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.