

OBITUARY

G3ADZ - RSARS 39

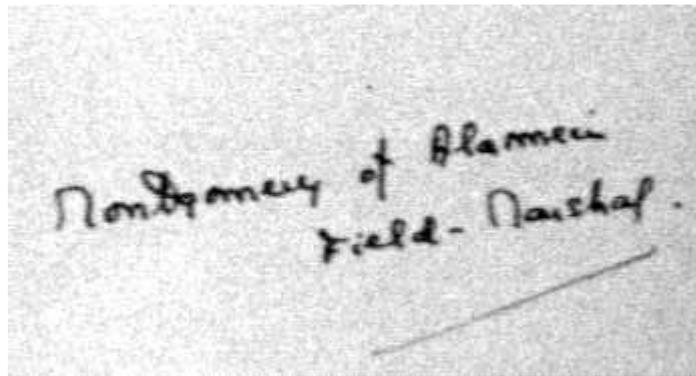
The Requiem Funeral Mass for Major Dennis William John Haylock (29th January 1920 - 6th March 2003) was held at St. Felix Church, Felixstowe on 20th March - 10 members of his immediate family were among the 50-strong congregation and long-term friends LHVP R.Winters (G3NVK) and his wife Mrs. Jo Winters were also representing Council and Members of RSARS. Dennis' granddaughter read her poem "*Grandpa*" and there was a moving recital of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "*How do I love thee?*" in addition to four hymns - the emphasis being on his love and affection for his wife Francis, his two daughters and grandchildren and the unselfish devotion displayed throughout his life towards others.

With the passing of G3ADZ, the Royal Signals ARS has lost the one man whose foresight and persistence led to our very existence.

Dennis Haylock joined the army in 1938, we believe as one of the first peacetime conscript militia, and was trained as an Operator Signals. His subsequent service is not clear, but it is known that he served in various low-key Phantom Signals units before being commissioned as an officer into the Royal Corps of Signals. The end of Second World War found Capt. Haylock serving as the Signal Officer at Gen. Montgomery's TAC HQ, where he was personally involved in the direct communications between the surrendering German forces and 21st Army Group at Luneburg Heath. (The National HRO Receiver used in these exchanges was donated by Dennis to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford early in 2003).



Inset from book:



The idea of a national trained wireless operator reserve was not new. The RAF Civilian Wireless Reserve of the 1930's had demonstrated that licenced radio amateurs could provide a useful resource for national emergencies. Some time in the immediate post-war years G3ADZ and G2EC (Brig. Eric Cole) came together. It is not clear who made the running, but Dennis Haylock certainly played a leading part in the formation of what became the Army Wireless Reserve Squadron, which he brought to Blacon Camp for a first training session in 1953.

The first members of AWRS were volunteer radio amateurs all with previous military service. At that first camp, commanded by Major Haylock, amateur members were a mere handful and the Squadron was made up to its required strength with Royal Signals National Servicemen who at that time were obliged to attend for continuation training after their full-time service. Under G3ADZ's leadership numbers increased slowly and training continued in operator skills involving weekend CW nets from home. It was during 1953 that the newly-formed AWRS Amateur Radio Society - the direct predecessor of RSARS - set up and operated an amateur radio station, GB3AWR, at the annual training at Blacon Camp.

During these early years, Haylock was pressing his superiors for a positive role for the Radio Amateur, something more definite than a reserve pool, something to demand and promote the higher communication skills which he believed his amateur volunteers possessed. He believed that a definite role would also help to attract the numbers needed to demonstrate to the War Office that such a reserve could be viable. Eventually his efforts were rewarded by the command of 404 Signal Squadron (Press Communications), consisting of a heavy Wireless Troop (complete with Golden Arrow SWB8 3½ kW mobile Radio Teleprinter station) and a Medium Wireless Troop equipped with 8 WS53 350W stations .

Summer 1956 found G3ADZ conducting a mobilisation exercise at which time he 'embodied' 404 Signal Squadron at Blacon Camp, Chester, collected the remaining transport at Catterick and took the whole lot 'overseas' to the ancient horse lines at Bellerby Camp, Leyburn. Just a few months later found G3ADZ doing the same thing again but for real when the unit was called up for the abortive Suez invasion. In due course a Golden Arrow station was added which provided Radio Teleprinter communication from Port Said back to Cyprus.

Dennis retired from active service on his return to UK and eventually left the Reserve in 1960 shortly after which RSARS was formally inaugurated. However his pride in Royal Signals and his enthusiasm for amateur radio continued undiminished. He organised and conducted an effective “Intruder Watch” for the RSGB during the early 1950’s monitoring the amateur bands mostly for pirate broadcasters and other illegal transmissions. He was active in the various RSARS nets until domestic circumstances and declining health intervened.

G3ADZ’s original concept of a reserve of radio amateur operators is now fully justified and is demonstrated by the continuing activities of RSARS and the enthusiasm of its members mirrored by similar functions in the RAFARS and RNARS.