

# MERCURY

THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
ROYAL SIGNALS  
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NUMBER 21

OCTOBER 1967

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PRESIDENT : Brigadier D.R. HORSFIELD, OBE, MA, AMEE,  
Director of Telecommunications

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AND 30th Signal Regiment,  
TREASURER Blandford Camp,  
BLANDFORD FORUM,  
Dorset.

HEADQUARTERS STATION - BLANDFORD CAMP - GB3RCS G4RS

## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	1
Our Man in Aldabra - An Amateurs Paradise (Concocted by the Editor approved by VQ9JW) .....	2
Can you Help?.....	4
Activity Periods .....	4
Integrated Transmitters or Why be Orthodox (by G3EJF (4)).....	5
NFD '67 (An enlightening report by Maurice Caplin - G3NWQ (282) .....	8
On the Awards Front (by GI2DZG (5)).....	9
G8VG Does the Ton...and more (by GI2DZG (5)).....	10
Alan Aston - G 10746 (Member 271).....	10
From the Editors Post Bag .....	11
We went to London (by G3NJM (7)).....	13
QSL Cards (Des Barry (76)) .....	14
Reunion Weekend 1967 - Headquarters Station Activity .....	15
Affiliated Club No. 12 RMAS Sandhurst Amateur Radio Club.....	15
Notes From Germany (by "Short Skip" (Alias 282)).....	16
22nd Signal Regiment ARC operate from Andorra (by David Llewellyn DL5XE (268)) .....	18
Are you on the Ball .....	19
Overdue Subscription List .....	20
RSARS Society Property as at 1st April '67.....	21
Minutes of the AGM Sept. 1967.....	22
RSARS Heathkit Equipment.....	29
Rules for the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Award .....	30
Membership Application Form.....	Back cover
Available from Headquarters .....	Back cover

## EDITORIAL

How do you do everybody welcome to the first Mercury to be produced from Blandford. The Editorial Chair has moved down to the sunny South, and there has also been a change in the occupant. As a matter of fact it had to be strengthened as yours truly was coerced into accepting the task over a glass of the local brew one evening by G3DSS and G3IBB (at least they have volunteered to assist as Society Auditors for their treachery!) and Les (G3RUS) regretfully handed over at the End of July.

Les has toiled very hard at the job of HQ Station Manager and Editor, so much so that he has driven himself too far, and on 3rd August he was admitted into hospital seriously ill. Many weeks passed with no change, but I am very pleased to tell you that he is now up and about again, though not yet 100%. Realising the load you have been carrying Les, I sincerely hope the enforced rest has proved of use and that we shall soon once again hear your familiar fist on the bands. On behalf of the Society thank you and best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

Meanwhile, for administration convenience, the post of Treasurer has also moved to Blandford and combined with that of Field Secretary.

Maurice Caplan (282) has regrettably left for DL -land and we have lost a live wire Publicity man. Roy Walmsley (G3IBB) has offered all possible assistance and it is hoped that Ian Scott (G3SYW) will be able to help later this year. Yes Maurice, you've made a very large hole to fill, but thanks a lot.

Your HQ Station is reasonably active, and as a direct result of the A.G.M. will be offering slow morse Xmissions twice a week from November. (TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS at 2100 hrs on 1868 Kc/s)

You will also see slight changes in the "Activity" frequencies. Hope you find them suitable; don't forget to come on and try them.

You'll find the A.G.M. Minutes in this copy together with a Financial Account, and also a Property break down as the result of G3CIO reforming as an affiliated Club Station.

You will also see from the A.G.M. that the President has readily agreed to John Hodgkins (3) being granted Life Honorary membership for sterling work to the Society. Well done John and I hope the Certificate is to your liking.

Material for the "Mercury" is still extremely rare, rally round, never mind what it is, so long as it has some relevance to our hobby.

Next "Mercury" should be with you (in G land) directly after Christmas.

73  
de G3EKL

## OUR MAN IN ALDABRA - AN AMATEUR'S PARADISE

(Concocted by the Editor. approved by VQ9JW)

It all started back in April when the editor was asked if the Society could provide a suitable operator to accompany the Royal Society on an expedition in the Indian Ocean. Green with envy, No.46 realised that he would not be able to get away for such a delightfully long period, but this was too good an opportunity to miss, and G3UDU (378) was quickly offered as suitable bait for the trap. Nothing was heard for some time then things started moving. Wheels turned, channels clicked into place and Johnny Walker found himself landed with the very important task of providing all communications required by the expedition both on, and to and from the Island. The task of deciding what would be the best equipment, antennas, power supplies etc., soon absorbed John to such an extent that he was seen hastening around with head bowed and his hands clasped reverently in the hope that the great God CODDON would provide all the bits and pieces that were needed.

To give you some idea of the importance of the task, the following extract from one of the better known daily papers sets the scene as 3UDU, ably assisted by Harry Stickley (yes, son of the well known Corps legend) checked and rechecked stores lists prior to Day " M", which was a fortnight before this extract was published.

"A Scientific race against time begins today when a British expedition lands at the island of Aldabra in the Indian Ocean.

The island, 60 square miles, contains animals and plants found nowhere else.

The scientists' problem is that the British Government wants to build an airstrip on the island for the Royal Air Force - a step zoologists claim will destroy the uniqueness of an island which Charles Darwin once fought successfully to preserve.

The expedition, from the Royal. Society, will dock at the island, 260 miles north-west of Madagascar, just as the controversy between the scientists and the Government becomes a public issue. Already involved - in opposition to the Government's plans - are Britain's Royal Society and Natural History Museum, the American Academy of Sciences and Washington's Smithsonian Institution. Their view is that the island is so important scientifically that it should be preserved unspoilt, whatever the needs of the Ministry of Defence.

One species - once common on islands in the Indian Ocean but now extinct everywhere except Aldabra - is the giant tortoise. It can live 200 years and weigh up to 800 lb. There are more than 10,000 of them. The only other place in the world where a species of the giant tortoise lives naturally is the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Peru.

Aldabra is also the major breeding-ground in the Indian Ocean for frigate birds, sea-birds with a wing span of seven feet. The unknown thousands of these birds, say scientists, could make a future airstrip unworkable. The birds soar to great heights, 3,000 feet and over, and dive down to fresh water pools. Scientists say that however the airstrip is positioned there is a threat of frequent collisions with planes.

The island's birds include the flightless rail - 1st of the flightless birds of the Indian Ocean Islands, which once included the dodo and the solitaire.

When the Ministry of Defence survey team set off for Aldabra last September, they took with them two scientists who made a preliminary study of the island. Their report led to a Royal Society recommendation that Aldabra should be preserved for scientific investigation." So this was what lay ahead of them



THIS IS G3UDU, BEFORE HE SAILED FOR ALDABRA. THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AT G4RS. (THERE IS A PHOTO TO HAND OF JOHN OUT IN THE WILDS WATCH OUR NEXT ISSUE)

John and Harry flew out from Lyneham and staged at Gan Island during the first week of August, and G4RS had a couple of pleasant QSO's with them both, through the courtesy of the RAFARS station on the island, VS91IB. A minor adm. problem was solved and a missing case reached our intrepid communicators the day before they were due to sail for the Seychelles. Wireless silence was the order of the day, but John promised to give Blandford a shout just as soon as he could from the coral island. True to his word, the advance party landed on August 13th and on the Tuesday after (15th) John made his first QSO as VQ9JW - it was a struggle, but contact was made with G4RS on the key on a very noisy 20 metre band.

Regular contact has been kept with the HQ station, starting with two schedules a week in the evening, and now a daily natter each afternoon, Monday to Friday. VQ9JW is putting a very comfortable signal into G each afternoon on both 15 and 10 metres and is also very active on 20. As the winter progresses, it is John's intention to get weaving on 80 and also 160 metres. His gear is a KW 2000A and a host of antennas.

W1BB (Stew) has already made tentative skeds thru' G4RS for Top band working with Aldabra, and John is willing to accommodate any reasonable requests for QSO's, all bands, Top to Ten. Should you want to arrange a QSO, then any Blandford station will QSP for you via G4RS. The Blandford stations? G3DSS, (3), G3EKL (46), G3IBB (37), G3NJM (7), G3VYZ (173), and G3WGN (470) to name but a few !!! Or drop me a line.

But don't expect QSLs by return. John has no regular outgoing mail but hopes to get his logs to Des, G30NU (76) as and when he can. (Des kindly agreed to act as QSL Manager). With the possibility of 5,000 contacts I feel that our sincere thanks should go out to Des.

00000-----00000

#### CAN YOU HELP ?

A shout for assistance from Cadet Cpl Martin Coldman (537) who is in charge of the Roundhay School cadets in Leeds. Martin writes:- "After numerous attempts to get some decent equipment together for Amateur Radio use, my morale is so low it just isn't true. We have a set of potentially interested cadets together with an instructor who has passed the RAE; but little or no money and even less equipment. Surely there must be somewhere, someone who is dedicated enough to donate some gear, however crude or sophisticated, that would enable us to get weaving."

Any offers, please, of equipment or even advice, to Martin (see QTH List)

(Transport is available to collect within 40 miles radius of Leeds)

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The A.G.M. of 1966 ruled that Annual Members would pay their subscription in January of each year. Please check the "Overdue Subs" list - you may be there, or you may know somebody who is. Please help keep the Society thriving. Thank you.

00000-----00000

#### ACTIVITY PERIODS

The new frequencies mentioned at the AGM are:-  
Approximately 3505, 14020, 21030 and 28040Kc/s on CW  
and 3750, 14190, 21440 and 28680 Kc/s on SSB and AM

Times are unchanged on the LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH from 1000 to 1200 and 1400 to 1600 hrs GMT (Z).

UK members are particularly asked to attempt to contact overseas members on the higher frequencies during these periods.

Remember these dates for ACTIVITY!!!

November 26;

December 31;

January 20 1968.

## INTEGRATED TRANSMITTERS

OR

"WHY BE ORTHODOX"

BY G3EJF (4)

There are still amateurs in this world who from preference or poverty build their own transmitters. Most of the new boys start off with a CW/AM rig that follows conventional lines, a VFO on 80 or top band is followed by a chain of multipliers and a Class C PA which is modulated in one way or another. Later on in life perhaps the sideband bug bites and one is faced with either a complete rebuild or scraping up enough money to buy commercial equipment. In either case the old rig usually goes on the scrap-heap as home built rigs, however good, never have much resale value.

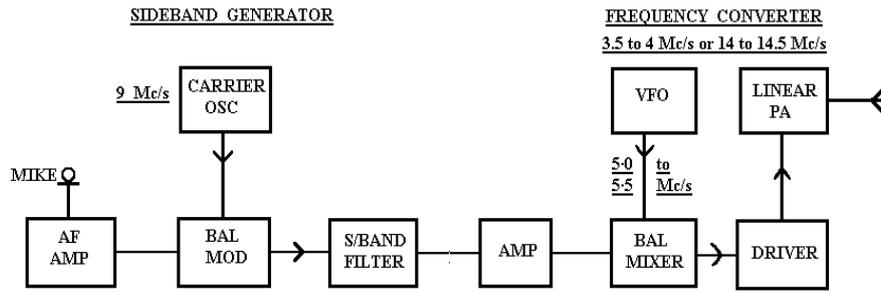
Looking at modern commercial equipment, designed for professional users, there seems a way in which we can break out of this vicious circle and build a transmitter to which the SSB facility can be easily added. The writer freely admits that these are pipe dreams to date but fails to see any snags in putting the idea into practice.

If we look at the block diagrams of most filter type SSB transmitters we find a common configuration in all of them. Figure 1 shows the block diagram of a simple two band rig, whilst Figure 2 shows a more complex all band affair. In either case there are two main parts to the transmitter, a section which generates the SSB signal at a fixed frequency, followed by stages which first heterodyne or mix the signal to obtain the required output frequency, and then amplify it to the power level for which the rig is designed. In figure 1 the SSB signal is generated at 9 Mc/s and then mixed with the output of VFO covering 5 to 5.5 Mc/s to give a sum frequency of 14 to 14.5 Mc/s and a difference frequency of 3.5 to 4 Mc/s. The all band rig of Figure 2 uses a similar technique, the SSB signal is generated at 455 Kc/s, beats with a 1545 Kc/s crystal oscillator to give a 2 Mc/s signal, is then mixed with the output of a 3 to 3.5 Mc/s VFO to give a signal in the range of 5 to 5.5 Mc/s. This signal is then mixed with the output of a crystal oscillator to give the final frequency as follows:-

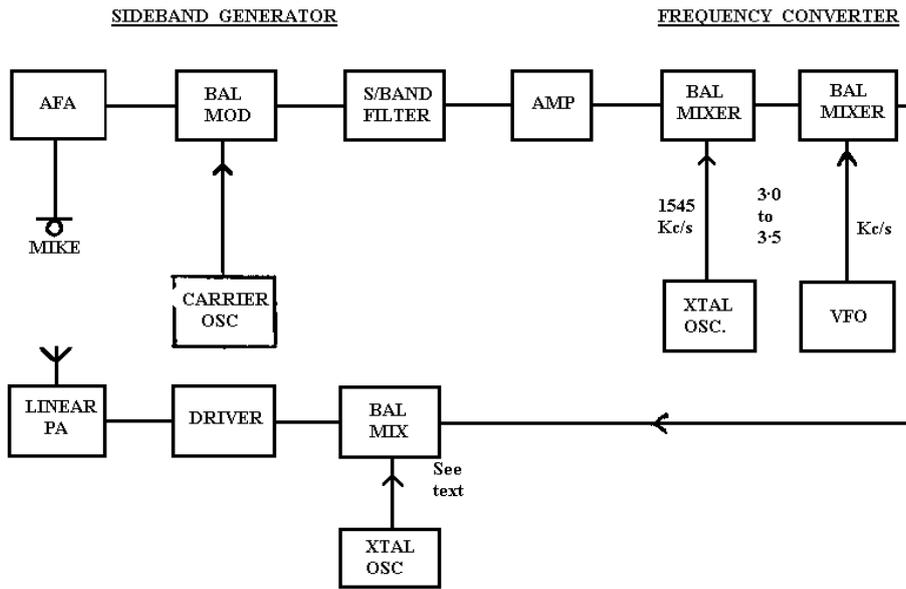
<u>FREQ. CONVERTER</u>		<u>SIDEBAND GENERATOR</u>		<u>FREQ. CONVERTER</u>
<u>XTAL OSC. FREQ.</u>				<u>O/P FREQUENCY</u>
9 Mc/s	-	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	3.5 to 4.0
Mc/s				
12.5 Mc/s	-	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	7 to 7.5 Mc/s
9 Mc/s	+	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	14 to 14.5 Mc/s
16 Mc/s	+	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	21 to 21.5 Mc/s
23 Mc/s	+	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	28 to 28.5 Mc/s
21.5 Mc/s	+	5.0 to 5.5 Mc/s	=	28.5 to 30 Mc/s

For the purpose of this article it is useful to refer to these parts of the transmitter as the "Sideband Generator" and the "Frequency Converter". Whatever type of signal we care to put into the "Frequency Converter" the same type of signal will be produced at the output frequency or frequencies.

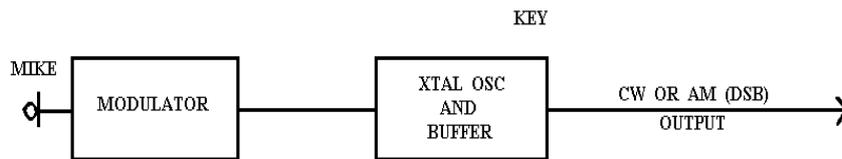
The writer's suggestion is that we should discard our conventional CW/AM ideas and build a transmitter along similar lines.



**Fig 1**



**Fig 2**



**Fig 3**

If the Sideband Generator is replaced by a crystal oscillator on the same frequency, the output will be a continuous carrier wave which can be keyed in a number of ways. Either the original oscillator may be keyed or any of the oscillators in the Frequency Converter, in any event there will be no output when the key is up.

Right, that's our C.W. transmitter. You'll only need the odd volt of RF from the oscillator so a double triode such as a 12AT7 as oscillator/cathode follower would give you more than enough.

If we amplitude modulate the crystal oscillator the output of the transmitter will be a normal double sideband A.M. signal. The amount of R.F. to be modulated is so small that only a tiny amount of audio is needed.

For RTTY it would be necessary to replace the crystal oscillator by a self excited oscillator which could then be frequency shift keyed. The design of a stable oscillator at 455 Kc/s is not at all difficult.

If we compare the block diagram of our CW/AM generator shown in Figure 3 with the SSB generators of Figures 1 and 2 we find that the transition to SSB is simple. Our crystal oscillator and modulator of Figure 3 become the Carrier Oscillator and AF amplifier and we are left with the job of providing a Balanced Modulator, Sideband Filter and one amplifier stage. Assuming that the Frequency Converter has been giving you a distortion-free AM signal there is no reason why it should not do so with a SSB Signal.

The change to SSB is thus made much less painful and there is no equipment wasted. The only large item to be bought is the filter and if you are prepared to build another crystal oscillator and AF amplifier you need not go off the air for months on end during the change-over.

Before embarking on a project of this type a decision must be made as to whether the SSB transmitter is going to use a 9 Mc/s or 455 Kc/s filter. Once this is decided a crystal oscillator or self excited oscillator on this frequency should be built so that each stage of the Frequency Converter can be checked as you go along. One problem often encountered in the building of an SSB rig is getting the VFO sufficiently stable. The stability of your VFO can be checked and improved during the CW operation of the transmitter and if real trouble is encountered it can be temporarily replaced by a crystal oscillator using crystals within the VFO range to give you spot frequencies on the bands.

The writer does not intend to go into the circuitry involved here. Many designs of filter type SSB transmitters have appeared in the radio magazines and in the Amateur Radio Handbooks, some all valves and some transistorised in their low power stages. Examination of any of these circuits will show that they consist of the two main parts referred to above. Taking things a stage further the designs of a few transceivers have appeared and a similar technique could well be used to construct firstly a CW/AM transceiver, adding the SSB mode at a later date.

The only apparent drawback to the idea of Integrated Transmitters is that when used on CW or AM the input to the final linear amplifier must be limited to 150 watts if the licence conditions are to be observed. This means that the RF output will be of the order of 50 watts if the amplifier is really linear as against 100 watts output of the Class C amplifier. This is only a difference in signal strength of 3 dB (Half an S-point) - not really worth shouting about. Against this the linear amplifier generates little if any harmonics so there is less likelihood of TVI.

It is hoped that this article has given food for thought and if any member starts work along these lines the writer would be pleased to hear from him and help in any way he can.

## NFD '67

(An enlightening report by Maurice Caplin - G3NWQ(282))

Of all the contests in the RSGB calendar, NFD attracts the greatest number of participants. So popular is it that even the most ardent abolitionists have been known to sit (in darkened shacks and behind locked doors), furtively listening to, and even (dare one say it?) exchanging reports with their local groups.

The successful NFD stations (successful, in terms of points scored, that is) bring to the contest the enthusiasm of a troop of boy scouts, allied to an attention to detail usually reserved for the planning of a military operation. They also invariably include among their members a number of highly-skilled CW operators. Other groups take to the field with no other thought than to spend a pleasant weekend in congenial surroundings. One of the writer's arduous NFDs was spent with a group which took the contest very seriously indeed, even going so far as to publish a military-type operation order. Another group, fondly remembered, followed only one rule, and that unwritten: "The NFD site shall not be further than 200 yards from a public house."

The parallel between NFD operation and military field signalling is apparent and requires no elaboration. In the writers opinion NFD should be just our cup of (NAAFI) tea.

With this, in mind, and being a confirmed contestant anyway, the writer proposed that RSARS submit an entry for NFD '67. Favourable replies having been received from a number of society members, it was decided to operate from within Blandford Camp, signing G4RS/P. In the first flush of enthusiasm it had been thought that a two-station entry might be made, but this was not possible.

No sooner had tentative plans been made than those well-known exigencies of the service (Murphy's Law to our non-military members) intervened....However, thanks to the efforts of the Blandford members, mid-day on 'D-Day' found a small group of enthusiasts assembled at the site. After several hours of tent-erecting, generator heaving, feeder-unravelling (and sending to the mess for another crate) the show went on.

As the result of one of the aforementioned exigencies, operation was possible on 3.5 and 7 Mc/s only. Nothing daunted, we fired up on 80 and were soon in the thick of it. G13JEX (544) was early on the scene for his first QSO with the HQ station. The next 24 hours followed the usual NFD pattern. Minor crises occurred at intervals, the most serious when 3NWQ's personal bottle-opener was mislaid. The scoring, rates dropped alarmingly until a pair of pliers, sidecutting were produced to make good the loss. (Despite this calamity, 882 points were scored).

Taking into account the restriction to two bands, and our lack of NFD experience, our achievement of attaining 8th position may be considered a most creditable one, and for this we are indebted to G3IBB, G3NWQ, G3UDU, G3VYZ, G3WNG and SWL's Peter and Jerry.

Flushed with success we are now planning an even bigger and better show for NFD '68.

Perhaps we shall be able to run two stations; one for the die-hard contestants and the other to be sited not more than 200 yards from a public house. Any RSARS who would like to take part - in either category - would be most welcome.

If you can make it to Blandford next June, and if you would like to help out, please let the Field Secretary know. There will be vacancies for the following:-

CW operators, loggers, tea-makers, aerial erectors, bystanders and beer-drinkers.

See you there?

Maurice has since left G-land and now sports the call DL5YW. Knowing Maurice and his unbounded energy I expect Herford will be in the NFD next year. But that doesn't detract from the last paragraph in the NFD report. Drop me a line if you feel like giving a hand at G4RS next year.

The more the merrier - Ed.

.....

“ON THE AWARDS FRONT”

BY GI2DZG(5)

Since the last issue of "Mercury" the writer has been kept busy with the issue of further Awards as follows:-

CLASS II

- 12. VS9ARV/VS9HRV/VS9KRV
- 13. G.V. Allis, 481
- 14. G3VNX

Congratulations to Sgt Ray Vasper on being the first non-U.K. member to gain an award. Ray has also been licensed as MP4BGK and is now DL5YT. Ray suggests, and here he has my support, that members holding, or who have held more than one call, should let me know, so that the checking of claims can be made easier. Would you please, therefore, let me know what other calls you hold, or have held, and the dates the calls were held. Tnx OMs.

Allan Aston, 271, is the first listener member to gain the Class I Award. Congratulations to him for his endeavour in gaining No.2 Class I Award. Awards Nos. 3 and 4 to K.G, Turk, G3UEV, and Dave Butler, GI3JEX. Fine to see that so many members are active and that more Awards are being issued; keep it up!

SCOREBOARD:-

Alan Aston, 271	72 worked;	55 confirmed
GI3JEX	63 worked;	50 confirmed
GI2DZG	45 worked;	36 confirmed
G8VG	Over 124 worked and near 103 confirmed	

POSTCARDS GIVING YOUR SCORE STILL AWAITED....HOW ABOUT LETTING ME AND OTHERS KNOW HOW YOU ARE PROGRESSING!!

.....

G8VG DOES THE TON . . . AND MORE "  
BY GI2DZG (5)

Bill Windle, G8VG, does it again! My article elsewhere in this issue of "Mercury" had been despatched to the Field Secretary in good time when, a few days later, the postman arrived with a packet containing .... wait for it!..... 102 QSLs for contacts with members of the Society. Some achievement, indeed!! Heartiest congrats, Bill. Phew! .... and that's not all, Bill has worked no less than 122 member stations. No wonder he took the cards to the AGM, where, I understand he was told that he would be getting another plaque to adorn his shack. With such a proud achievement, Bill rightly deserves it.....150 coming up soon, Bill?



A couple of pictures of G8VG and his shack. Note the various certificates, the cup (which is an FOC award) and the Society No.1 Award Plaque. (What is it to be next Bill? - Ed)

.....

ALAN ASTON - G 10746  
(MEMBER 271)

Alan Aston, the first listener member of the Society to gain the Class I Award, served with the 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea as a wireless operator. He moved to Japan and completed his military service in Hong Kong.

Alan's first interest in DX-ing was in listening to short wave broadcast stations and when he found that no more countries could be heard, he changed to listening on the amateur bands, mainly on 14 and 21 mc. bands with occasional excursions to 3-5 mc.

230 countries have been logged with 210 confirmed; 39 Zones have also been confirmed as well as the obtaining of 35 awards from 4 continents, one of which is the "Heard All Korea Award". Alan is the first G. SWL to obtain the latter award.

Stations logged for the Class I Award were received on an AR88LF and KW converter. Antennae used were a 14 mc. folded dipole and a 100 ft. long wire. Alan, who is a SWL member of CHC, RSGB and ISWL now uses a Drake 2BQ receiver. He states that the Class I plaque is the nicest award he has ever received.

W.E.C.

(Well done Alan, we'd better find something else for you. Glad you like the plaque - Ed)

FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

- No.225 Thanks very much for your letter and change of QTH. Hope you succeed in transferring DL2BR to your Unit.  
.....
- No.11 Sorry about the mess up with your copy of the July "Mercury" things have been just too hectic to catch up. VK4NH is number 593.  
.....
- No.278 Congratulations OM - and for the rest of our readers, 278 now sports the call G3WPW.  
.....
- No.456 I hope you have managed to get in touch with Dan Tanner. As for the location of the DL5s - See Maurice Caplan's article.  
.....
- No.540 Thanks for your letter - the question mark was because the master list of members gave a garbled spelling of your name. My sincere congratulations on passing RAE, and a delayed welcome to the ranks of our many licensed holders - HQ station will be looking out for you (G3WRY)  
.....
- No.97 Sorry to be losing you John. Hope you are soon radiating with a VK call. Keep in touch please.  
.....
- No.466 So you've moved to one of the hotter spots Brian. Give us fair warning if you intend to get an MP4 call.  
.....
- No.226 A belated welcome to Mike, back in G land for a TE Course. Perhaps we'll hear yet another call from the Blandford area?  
.....
- No.217 Welcome also to DL5XN/G3UDX who is in the Blandford area for a few months. (Learning how to communicate !!!)  
.....
- No.372 G2TA, called to see the HQ Station whilst we were completely upside down, back in early August. He recognised the QTH by the 10 set tower and wondered if it was the old one that used to be by the Saddle Club in Baghdad Lines (old 3CIO). Apparently '2TA was instrumental in erecting the old one back in 1946 when it was used extensively for ten metre working.  
.....
- No.164 Very sorry that we were unable to accommodate you when you rang on the land line in August. But rest assured that we are now OK for visitors !!  
.....
- No.485 Further to the last "Mercury" - Again well done Frank, welcome to the ranks as G3WNH.  
.....
- No.275 Don White should soon be active in VP1 land, call most probably VP1RF - lets hope he manages to get it out! Don is mainly a key man. g0 that should please a lot of you.  
.....
- No.11 Thanks for your second letter OM. No.11 asks whether any present members of the Society who are ex 1st or 6th Airborne Signals would care to contact him. He served with the Corps from 1940 to 46, being an ex-parachutist with 1st Airborne Division Signals from '42 to '45 and then a spell with the Sixth in '45 and '46. So what?  
.....

No.599 G3RYF, Arthur Rix, who has joined our ranks was with No.1 Special Force in Italy in 1944 and 1945. He would be interested in old hands who may be in the Society.

.....

No.151 John Hewitt, G3SGH, sports an old Signals number and must have numerous friends in the Society. Glad to meet you John and I hope you meet some old friends. The number 2325855.

.....

No.418 Well done Ray with your Class II Award. Walter, our Awards Manager tells me that you have a G call. I can't find any trace. Let me know please if you have.

.....

No.526 Tony asks whether any of you might be interested in (and qualified for) joining the "Flying Hams Club". It's all rather complicated, but goes something like this. Qualifications are that you are holding an Amateur Radio Licence and in possession, past or present, of a pilots designation from any country. This will entitle you to FULL membership, whilst holding an aircrew designation on the communication side, past or present entitles you to associate membership. Membership fee is one dollar (10 I.R.C's) no fee for the sightless or paralysed. This is a one time payment. Tony suggests anybody interested joins the Flying Hams Club net on 7070 Kc/s at 1100 Z Sundays, AM, SSB or CW.

.....

No.340 What can one say? Bill - G8VG - has made his 100 RSARS contacts CONFIRMED - yes confirmed !!! Sincere congratulations Bill; to work them is one thing (and difficult enough) but to get QSL's from them as well is almost a miracle. I'm sure Walter will elaborate on this, but it's a grand effort. (to the rest of you thinking that Bill must do nothing but sit and listen for the rest of you, I can assure that he has very little time to spare as he is the scribe for the FOC News sheet).

.....

No.61 Nice to hear from you Johnny - Ls passed your letter on to me. Tks very much for your assistance with the Herford boys - it makes our sixty foot tower seem child's play!!! I'm afraid your letter came too late to be raised at the AGM.

.....

No.469 (via G3RUS) What a grand newsy letter Harry - tks very much indeed. Hope you get the copy of the Merc before you leave for ZB2? Latest QTH for G3IDG is at the end in the new list. As for your query about the G5YN article - you're dead right. '5YN apologises for the error - eyes down and look in all of you !! In the last copy of Mercury, in the article on "Hotting up the Ether" page 18 Fig 8 gives the length of each side as a quarter wavelength and the total length of wire in the loop as 251 over the freq. in Mc/s. It should read "Total length of wire in loop given by 982 over the freq. in Mc/s -- the answer in feet." Hope none of you have been puzzled why your quad wouldn't give the gain offered!!! (just, goes to show that somebody reads the technical articles - Ed)

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No.46. (that's me folks!!)

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"WE WENT TO LONDON"

BY G3NJM (7)

(Being a report on the Royal Signals stand at the Communications Exhibition)

"There's hum on the line John".

"Can't be - I've checked it all up here. Must be your equipment."

"Don't talk rubbish - we're clear here."

" \*!!?!\*!! "

"OK, lets start again. Now turn up your mike gain till I stop you.." Know what I mean?

Of course you do. That was problem number one - keying and modulating a KW 2000A over a GPO line from the Hall to G4RS at Blandford. It went like a bomb on the day of course, thanks to G3WNG and G3EKL, bedevilled by G3DSS, G3IBB and G3VYZ. G4RS and GB3RCS for the period of the Exhibition. When 2100 hrs came on Saturday 30th Sept. and it was all switched off, it really had been worth it. Our first and last QSO had been with Sergeant John Walker, G3UDU, currently VQ9JW on Aldabra Island. He came in like a rocket and had quite a few DX hounds dripping over their blank QSL cards. So that was a successful part of our stand. At the other end of the scale, SRDE produced IDEX - a Landrover towed satellite communications equipment. Just a six foot dish, three or four boxes and a 13 amp plug. It's amazing and it works. For simplicity and efficiency it opened lots of eyes. Well done SRDE and thank you to those two gentlemen who tolerated amateur questions and who seemed to look at us amateurs as somebody quite mad, although very enthusiastic. "When is it coming on the surplus market, Mister?" was one question no one expected!!

Crystal measuring did a good trade (as usual) and looks like being a permanent fixture. Marconi's. lent us one of their digital display units and most efficient it was. The R 234 receiver pumped out RTTY on a teleprinter and the well arranged display of a tuneable notch filter running from 25 to 60 Mc/s completed the technical presentations of the show. Plessey loaned us a very expensive receiver, their PR 155. It is all solid state, uses the Wadley Loop system and handled very well. Many an operator liked its feel and although we could only get an indifferent antenna, it brought in the stations. At a QRX of 800 you can order one by writing to!

There were only two members of the Society on the stand for most of the Exhibition, G3WNG who manfully operated GB3RCS through hell and high water. and G3NJM who stood around looking pretty eyeing all the girls. The rest of the stand was manned by technicians and radio operators. Some have passed their RAE, some were thrown in at the last moment and are still not quite sure just what hit them. Everyone worked hard and have the best of sore feet and cracked tongues to prove it!! Many members of the Society came up and made themselves known. It was grand to have so many "eye-ball" QSO's.

The AGM, reported elsewhere in this issue, was quite well attended.

The Signals Officer-in-Chief and the BGS came along to see us and the S.O.-in-C kindly wrote to our Regiment and said how impressed he was by it all. CSO Southern Command and a host of visitors showed that the Corps Society is well thought of. Many of them made special trips to see us and we thank them all for showing the interest.

Many people contributed to the stand. Much of the praise is heaped upon a few people and such is life that the people who do a lot of the work seem to be left out. Capt. Stubbs and members of

the Signals Demonstration team built the whole stand, then brought it up to London and put it all together. Without their enthusiasm and sheer skill there would never have been a stand and the Society owes them a terrific debt of thanks. Sgt Fisher is the heart of the team - a chippy by trade - and no one will deny his obvious hard work. Many other members of 30th Signal Regiment contributed too, and we are most grateful for their help. Lt. Col. Gilbertson, the CO of the Regiment, supported the whole enterprise and provided the necessary kick or two when we wanted something impossible. It came!!!

So, may we look forward to 1968 with confidence. Perhaps in these days of integration in the services and the obvious economy in our lives, a tri-Service stand is a possible answer. After all the RN and the RAF are all doing the same thing. Why not? What do you think?

(Comments to me please - Ed)

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QSL CARDS  
(DES BARRY (76))

G8VG disturbed the AGM with his cost comparison of his QSL cards and the Society ones. (I thought that all members used our cards).

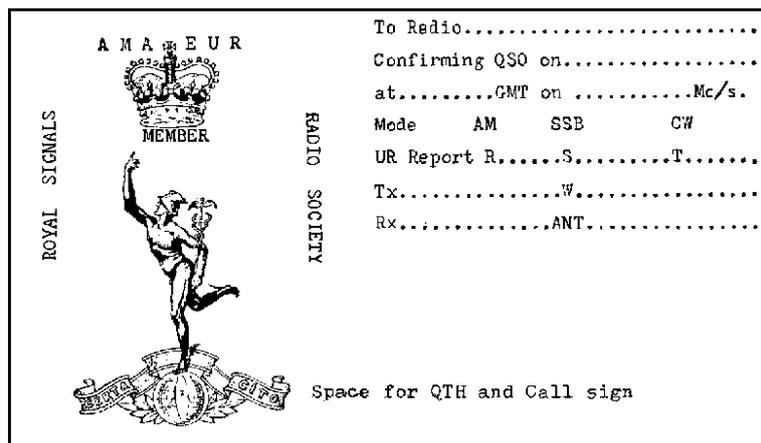
Having digested this unpleasant fact - and examined one of our cards - I can only conclude that one reason for the higher cost is the fact that our card requires three runs through the printing press as we have printing on the front in two colours and the back in one. This is before we push on to have them overprinted.

I therefore suggest we redesign our card with printing on one side only with the following advantages:-

Cheaper cost: info on one side only (how I now curse two sided cards when dealing with VQ9JW's pile ups) and QSL Bureau's should appreciate an uncluttered back (where we pencil in the destination call).

Cheaper cost:

The design could be as follows:-



REUNION WEEKEND 1967 - HEADQUARTERS STATION ACTIVITY

Once again the last weekend in June brought the Old Comrades together in Catterick. During the weekend G4RS was on the air with the special callsign GB4RCS from Blandford Camp. Two positions were operated simultaneously by the members at Blandford working shifts; both positions were KW2000A transceivers, one being kindly loaned by Ted Philp (G3NJM) and the other by 30 Signal Regiment (G3VXX).

Conditions on 80 metres over the period were bad. The static level was terrific, yet we were able to contact G3CIO several times to QSP greetings from members worked on 20 and 15 metres, Notable among these were greetings from the CSO Middle East Forces via MP4MAX, the QSO with MP4MAX being arranged by G3AS. In contrast to 80 meters, the higher frequency bands were in wonderful shape with good solid openings to the Far East and the American Continent. Total contacts for the two days was 186, but only included 15 member stations.

Sharing the operating were Ray Webb (G3EKL), Roy Walmsley (G3IBB), Bill Graham (G3KPQ), Ted Philp (G3NJM), Mike Groom (G3WME) and John Grigsby (G3WNG). Ample supplies of coffee were supplied by Roy Coverley, Peter Dowdall and Jerry Rees and a great deal of hard graft was put in by other members prior to the event in making the club habitable and erecting antennas. We all felt that the weekend had been a great success and well worth the effort.

(An edition adrift, but "better late than never" - Ed)

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AFFILIATED CLUB No.12 - G5PM - RMAS SANDHURST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The members of G5PM had hoped to go /P during the first week of August. But disaster struck in the shape of a reluctant alternator whilst they were still in Westmoreland. So if any of you had been hopefully listening, hard luck!!! This apparently happened on their first day out. Better luck next time chaps - perhaps a wind generator might have been a better bet!!!

Another cry for help - any sort of mast gear would be greatly appreciated by the Club. They will collect (petrol is no problem!!)

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RSGB Amateur Radio Call Book - 1968

Bags of publicity for two of our stalwarts. The front cover carries two of our members, 470 and 485, who have both now obtained their calls and appear in sequence as G3WNG and G3WNH.

But don't take too much notice of the "Affiliated Clubs QTH Section", it should read:- G4RS, Field Secretary, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, DORSET.

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ACTIVITY PERIODS

Did you notice that there is a change of frequencies to be used for our Activity Periods? If not, here they are once again

3505, 14020, 21030 and 28040 Kc/s on CW  
and  
3750, 14180, 21440 and 28680 Kc/s on SSB or AM

NOTES FROM GERMANY  
BY  
“SHORT SKIP” (ALIAS 282)

A quick look around the local clubs reveals an appreciable amount of activity by individual members, but little in the way of club activity - with a couple of notable exceptions.

One of the exceptions is at the 7th Signal Regiment club where, for many months, Les, DL5YK, has ploughed a lonely furrow. The arrival of Jock, G3WHS, Maurice, G3NWQ, and Gordon G3HDD, within a couple of weeks, has caused a flurry around the club shack, Thanks to Les's industry, the newcomers arrived to find a going concern, in the shape of a Sommerkamp rig, with a TH3 beam atop a 40-foot Clark mast, The period of frustration demanded by the DL Post Office having duly elapsed Maurice, DL5YW, and Jock, DL5YX, are now hard at it. DL club licenses are issued only when all club members (who must number at least three) are licensed. This is now the case at 7th Regiment and a club license is awaited.

Maurice and Dave, DL5XX, recently paid a call on Ray, DL5YT. Half-way through a fairly sociable evening Derek, DL2BJ, suddenly appeared out of the blue after an absence of several years, whereupon a long-standing omission was rectified - Derek was ceremoniously attested into RSARS. Reminiscence was the order of the day as the RSARS worthies, plus Heinz, DL6AA, related their recent DX-ploits. Eventually, it was calculated that those assembled had, over the years, collected some 37 prefixes between them. In the belief that this may be yet another record in which nobody is interested, the calls are reproduced here:-

G30FV, GM30FV, GW3OFV, EI3AH, DL5XX, VS1ML, ZC5DJ, 5A4TZ, 9M4ML, 9M6AJ,  
9V1ML.

G3NWQ, GW3NWQ, DL2PA, DL5YW, VS1MK, 9M4MK, 9V1MK.

G3RKN, DL2BJ, VS1LE, MP4TAF, MP4MAC, MD5DL, SU1SS, VS2DF, VS9ADL, 5B4DL.

G3VIY, DL5YT, MP4BGK, MP4QAK, MP4TAC, VS9ARV, VS9HRV, VS9KRV, VS9PRV.

. . . . .

Derek is QRV on 2-metres and has worked into G-land. (How on earth is G8VG going to bag that one ?).

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Plans are afoot to bring together all active RSARS members in BAOR for a min-AGM.

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The Lippstadt club members have now returned to the fold, following their trip to PX and LX. From information gleaned during a four-way QSO between DL5XE/P/PX, DL5XY, G3NVX and G4RS, it would appear that Dave, DL5XE will have plenty to say about the expedition.

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We were delighted to hear John, VQ9JW, coming into DL-land so strongly on 21440.

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Finally, inspired by the potted biography of G8VG, which appeared in the April edition, the following is dedicated to one of our longest-serving members.

David A.C. Jack was born in Tipperary, after the song of the same name. He took an early interest in electronics (switching the milking machine on and off) and at the tender age of eighteen years obtained his licence (EI3AH).

He joined the Army, where, in the best military tradition, his knowledge of communications was utilised to the full. In other words he became a despatch rider. In the interest of road safety he was soon sent for re-training as a radio technician. In spite of his previous knowledge of electronics he passed out as a technician and was soon attacking 19 sets for all he was worth. The attack was successful and the 19 set soon became extinct. It was about this time that he first came into the writer's ken, via the medium of 40 CW. Unorthodox to a degree, Dave, at the time), was operating /P from a disused airfield in North Wales, crouching over a hurricane lamp and sending Irish morse (GW3OFV).

He soon tired of this (and so did your scribe) and emigrated - with the assistance of the Army - to Tripoli, where he had heard that there were still 19 sets to be attacked (5A4ZT). Having tested the joys of DX operating he applied to be posted farther afield and was duly sent to Scotland (GM3OLV).

Then followed a remarkable period when he operated /M up and down the M1; remarkable because at that time the M1 had not been built... A most unorthodox lad, our Dave.

He eventually tired of commuting between GM and Colchester (G3OFV) and set out for the Far East, where he and the writer first came face-to-face. Now armed with a DX Call (VS1ML), he immediately fired up on 20 CW and was soon chasing DXCC. Just as the guys on the Honour Roll were becoming apprehensive about his score, he was flown across to Borneo, where communications of a somewhat more urgent nature were being established.

Having earned the approval of his superiors by his ability to cope with equipment which had previously refused to 'ackle' he was permitted a short holiday (9M6AJ/ZC5DJ), before returning to Singapore (9M4ML), from where he was quickly despatched on trouble-shooting missions to some of the hairier parts of South-east Asia (ARRL Banned List). He was by now a 100% CW man (9V1ML).

It was about this time that the writer, sitting one night in his shack in 9V1-land and wondering whether it was worth the effort to call the VR4s and AC8s which were cluttering the band, detected familiar Japanese elbug-type CW on 14005. It was none other than Dave, operating /P from the depths of the North Malayan jungle (crouching over a hurricane lamp of course). The skip was completely out for short-haul QSOs, but, as we have observed, Dave is a great one for the unorthodox.

Having failed to obtain a licence to operate from HS1-land he cut all his Thais and joined the writer in planning an expedition to VS5. For operational reasons the venture had to be cancelled at a late date and Dave returned home for some well-earned leave (EI3AH).

Footloose once more, he accepted the Army's invitation to spend a couple of years in Germany, where he arrived about a year ago (DL5XX). He quickly made friends with the DL amateurs and is now regarded by one of the local groups as its star contest operator.

It was the writer's pleasure to meet Dave again recently. Dave apologised for having been off the air, but he said that he would soon be QRV again - just as soon as his hurricane lamp had been repaired. Listen out for him.

(Must have got his wick trimmed 'cos Dave was active during the week ending Sep 24 - Ed)

22ND SIGNAL REGIMENT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OPERATE FROM ANDORRA AND LUXEMBOURG (BY WAY OF BAVARIA, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE AND SPAIN!)

A REPORT BY S/SGT (Y of S) DAVID LLEWELLYN, DL5XE (268)

One club member threatened to go by train and another to hitch hike with ten watt transceiver on his back, but whichever way you look at it, statements such as these made the whole pipe dream plan of on operating holiday in Europe a reality. The only problem we had in January when we first planned the trip, (and one which was still with us on arrival in ANDORRA - seven months and a thousand miles later) was from whom do we get a callsign. Letters had gone off by the sheaf, starting with the British Consul in Barcelona. Each reply passed us on to someone else or another department, but never to the right one! Sgt Jim Rayment, Corporals George Miles and Colin Thackwell and yours truly were to be heard muttering about writing to the President of the place until we found that the Principality of Andorra is governed by a Spanish Bishop and a French official, neither of whom wished to know us anyway! The only alternative to the Andorran call was to use our German callsigns with the portable 'IN ANDORRA' tagged onto it. This would be just as effective.

We finally got away at 0040 August 31st after a hair raising chase around BAOR, looking for our big Transceiver, with a thousand miles and two days driving ahead of us. It wasn't exactly the Signals Overland expedition, but there was a remarkable similarity I can assure you! With the exception of absolutely awful French roads, even worse French manners and a complete lack of signposts, the journey through Bavaria, Switzerland and France was mainly uneventful. Our entry into Andorra was prophetic to say the least. At 0530 on Saturday Sep 2nd we entered the State of Andorra in the Pyrenees to the most fantastic storm any of us have ever witnessed. The lightning streaked down almost on the road ahead, (or so it seemed) and torrents of water cascaded down the twisting mountain pass (about 7000 feet at this point). We did the sensible thing and parked in the porch of a petrol station and slept through it all. We were to find out later that at the slightest sign of rain the entire city of Andorra la Vella (the capital) is plunged into darkness as the light and power system is switched off! This didn't bode very healthy for transceiver power supplies as you no doubt realise.

Andorra la Vella is the capital town of the Principality, It is a very pretty mountain town, but is Blackpool, Brighton and Margate all rolled into one, without the beaches, Prices are sky high even for the most basic things (bread, eggs and so on) and coupled with this is a dislike of anything out of the ordinary. The one person we looked forward to meeting turned out to be ANTI amateur radio .... he was the local (AND ONLY) Radio AMATEUR !! When we informed him that we were not just passing through, he nearly went berserk. Shouting at us in Spanish and jumping up and down, he informed us that if we were in Spain the police would put us in jail and confiscate our equipment into the bargain. We were pirates, encroaching into HIS territory. chancing our luck somewhat we asked what the police were likely to do if we stayed in ANDORRA and not Spain. "They will more than likely throw you out of the country". I am happy to record that the fighting 22nd STAYED. We set up shop with very professional antennas and a good assortment of SSB/CW equipment and the will to work hard ... "If only we had a Union Jack", said someone. All we needed to complete the trouble at the time was a period of bad radio conditions. We got it. Strength SEVEN noise and severe short skip signals were, the order of

the day. We checked with other stations on the bands and they were having similar experiences all around Europe. We observed sunspots through filtered binoculars on the Tuesday, and counted about eight major spots with many smaller ones clustered towards the centre of the sun.

Although we had a link with Maurice Caplan in Herford almost daily, we only had one breakthrough for real DX, and worked into Okinawa, Israel and Morocco. With conditions so bad, we decided that our trip to Luxembourg, scheduled for only ONE day, could be extended to THREE and accordingly we packed up and skipped out of Andorra early in the morning of Thursday Sep 7th (before the police woke up!)

Our arrival in Luxembourg coincided with the close of the tourist season and the town of ECHTERNACH, on the border with Luxembourg and Germany, was sleeping and very cold, so we followed suit and slept in the cars for the night.

Next morning we made camp in a well appointed camping site, and one of our party set off for home in one of the cars singing something about 'San Francisco and love-ins there'. Antennas here were inverted vees for 15, 20 and 40 metre bands, and our first contact was with the middle USA, which cheered us up somewhat. After 24 hours operation tragedy struck again. The camp site owner switched us off after he had realised that we had used 6 Kilowatts of power during the first day!!! Under no circumstances would he allow any further use of the gear, and, there being no convenient street light into which we could plug, it looked as though we would have to move, or else relax in the morning sun. With only one small car left, three hefty operators and TWO full carloads of kit there was only one answer to the problem. (and I still have the suntan to show for it)

Our nearest neighbours here were two Belgians, who treated us with hospitality and lots of "tea-bag " tea. This isn't as good as Radio Village brew, but served up Belgian fashion it goes down very well. The commonwealth of nations grew into two Aussies, two Hounslow lads and three "out of work" Radio Hams. A difference of opinion on something very unimportant sent one of the Belgians off in a continental huff (no more tea for the lads!) and our Aussie friends left for the UK on the Tuesday. George and Colin left for home with as much as they could carry in one car, and that left Robinson Crusoe Llewellyn writing notes of these notes in a cold empty tent, complete with one ton of salmon, half a tin of Pipe tobacco (but lots of tea) and a fervent hope that at least someone would return for him SOMEDAY.

The report that the trip was an enormous success would be a little from the truth. The club worked hard, attained every aim we set ourselves, and had a holiday we won't forget for a long time. We put "Royal Signals Amateur " on the map from two very rare areas, both under some protest and travelled well over 2000 miles to complete it.

Next year, although my swan song will have been sung, the amateurs of the Regiment will more than likely have operated from San Marino, Monaco and Liechtenstein... all very rare areas for the hobby. Finally, a note of thanks to Lieutenant Maurice Caplan without whose efforts we would have been a very low power operation. Thanks also to those many fellows who helped to pack and ship the gear to us. I hope that the club worked hard enough to pay you all back in kind.

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ARE YOU ON THE BALL?

The A.G.M. of 1966 ruled that Annual members would pay their subscriptions in January of each year. Please check the "Overdue Subs" list - you may be there, or you may know somebody who is. Please help to keep the Society thriving.

Thank you.

### OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTION LIST

The following members annual subscriptions are overdue:-

34	189	262	321	371	439
51	190	274	322	379	440
54	191	276	323	383	441
55	193	277	324	390	443
57	201	286	527	391	444
58	202	291	333	392	445
57	204	292	334	399	446
60	212	295	337	407	448
57	220	296	342	409	447
58	221	297	343	411	450
70	230	298	347	412	Aff 3
90	232	300	349	413	Aff 6
90	236	503	350	415	Aff 14
105	237	305	352	423	Aff 21
138	242	306	353	424	Aff 22
142	243	307	354	425	Aff 23
147	245	308	355	426	Aff 26
157	246	309	356	423	Aff 33
158	247	310	360	452	Aff 34
163	252	311	361	433	
169	253	312	366	434	
170	259	313	368	436	
186	260	316	369	437	
187	261	310	370	438	

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### MEMBERS QTH AND CALL LIST

It is surprising just how much is needed to produce an up to date QTH and Members List.

With such an enormous number of serving members, QTH's alter almost daily and the only accurate way of keeping the list up to date is for YOU to write and tell me that you have moved.

If the list is to be of any use at all, then please tell me where you are.

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### STOP PRESS (via G4RS)

VQ9JW (378) reports 75 countries worked as at 12 October 67. (That's in 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks)

ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Society Property as at 1st April 67

As the result of the separation of G3CIO and the HQ Station, the Society property was reallocated as follows:-

1. HELD BY CATTERICK GARRISON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY - G3CIO

Black and Decker drill stand	1)
Vanguard Transmitter	1)
Station operating console	1)
Taylor Signal Generator Model 68	1)
Heathkit Oscilloscope Model 012U	1) Items originally
Taylor FM Sweep Generator Model 92A	1) Catterick Amateur
<del>Eddystone Communications Receiver 888A</del>	<del>1) Radio Club property</del>
Black and Decker jig saw attachment	1) Valued at-
Black and Decker horizontal stand	1) £129. 9s. 6d.
Black and Decker grinding wheel	1)
Miscellaneous tools for use with drill	)
Antenna Couplers 600 AU	)
Sheet metal bending machine	1)
Five way coaxial unit	1)
Tubular electric heater 1000w	1)
Hacksaw frame	1)
Junior saws	3)
Swan electric kettle six pint, 2 KW	1)

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KW Viceroy transmitter	1)
Crystal microphone type BM3	1)
VHF Receiver converter	1) Valued At-
<del>Multimeter (AVO)</del>	<del>1) £75. 0s. 4d.</del>
Multimeter (Japanese)	1)

2. HELD BY HQ STATION BLANDFORD

Mains transformer (beam rotator)	1) Items originally
CDR antenna rotator assembly	1) Catterick Amateur
<del>Five way coaxial unit</del>	<del>1) Radio Club property</del>
Cowlgill motor and	1) Valued at-
<del>3 Element beam antenna</del>	<del>1) £38. 2s. 9d.</del>

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Royal Signals Ashtrays	2)
Labgear transmitter LG300	1) Valued at-
<del>Labgear Power Unit and modulator</del>	<del>1) £224. 8s. 6d.</del>
Cash box	1)
Racal receiver RA 17	1)

D11 Marconi installation complete in cabin	1) Valued at- £11,000
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JVG

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS  
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT THE HORTICULTURAL HALL, LONDON  
ON FRIDAY, 220TH SEPTEMBER, 1967, COMMENCING AT 1600 HOURS.

PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Brigadier D.R. Horsfield	President and Chairman
Capt. (QM) R.A. Webb (G3EKL)	Field Secretary and Treasurer
Lt Col J.S. Martinson (Retd)	Headquarters Secretary
Major M.W. Simms-Reeve	CSO Eastern Command/London District
O/Cdt J. Hutchins	RMAS (G5PM)
O/Cdt A. Sugdon (G3UNC)	Self
Lt T.L. Craze (GM3VNN)	Scottish Command
Major G.A.C. Currie (GM3VIO)	Lowland Royal Signals ARC/32 (S) Signal Regiment (V)
Major J.W. Douglas (GI3PUE)	Northern Ireland Command
Mr. W.E. Corsham (G2UV)	Self
Dr. C.J. Bennett (G3DNF)	Self
Mr. W.H. Windle (G8VG)	Self
S/Sgt D.A.C. Jack (DL5XX)	BAOR (EI3AH)
Major S. Symons (G3DSS)	Self
Sgt Harbord	HQ 19 Bde., Colchester
Major D.A. Barry (G3ONU)	Self
Lt Col N.I. Bower (Retd)(G5HZ)	Royal Signals Records
Mr. R. Arnold (G3LAT)	Self
Mr. B.A. Watling (G3RNL)	Self
S/Sgt (F of S) J. Morris (G3VPM)	Army Apprentices College (G3HKR)
Mr. W. Vernon Sutton (G3GLQ)	Self
Mr. L.E.R. Hall (G3IGI)	Self
Mr. F.A. Grant (G3FTV)	Self
L/Cpl P.M. Dowdall	Self
Lt Col W.D. Horniman (Retd)(G2WH)	Self
Lt Col H.O. Pargeter (Retd)(G6MA)	Self
Lt Col Evan Y. Nepean, Bt. (Retd)(G5YN)	CSO Southern Command
Capt. D. Turner	CSO Western Command
Major J.E.P. Philp (G3NJM)	30th Signal Regiment
Mr F. Penfold (G3SDD)	Self
Clr/Sgt (S) J.E. Bell RM	RMAS
WO I (F of S) J.E. Grigsby (G3WNG)	Self
Capt. I.D. Scott (G3SYWMP4MAX)	Self

## ITEM 1. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. The Society membership had continued to expand since the last AGM by the enrolment of a further 115 members, and it had been a year of considerable Society activity, the main points of which the Chairman briefly outlined. Unfortunately it had also been a year of sickness.

On behalf of all Society members he felt that he expressed their wishes that Leslie Beaumont, who had been Field Secretary until mid-summer, would have a quick recovery to health from a series of serious illnesses which had befallen him. He was still in hospital. General Cole, their Vice President, had had an operation last June and best wishes went to him for his complete return to health.

The Headquarters station was now established at Blandford. This task had required a great amount of co-operative effort by all concerned and steady progress had been made.

Catterick Garrison club despite siting difficulties had reformed, utilising funds and equipment handed over to it from the Headquarters station. These transactions were reflected in the Treasurer's financial statement..

A stirring example of the Society's amateur radio spirit was portrayed by Sgt. Roy Vasper's (VS9ARV) experiences aboard HMS Yarton. Throughout the ship's voyage ex Aden to the KURIA MURIA island group, Roy Vasper was the sole means of communication for this ship which was crippled by the violence of a typhoon. His own amateur radio gear which became a write-off as a result, was happily later replaced free by the ARRL.

The Society had been further honoured by the selection of John Walker (VQ9JW) to act as operator to the Royal Society Expedition to Aldabra where his total of QSL's was reaching record figures.

The President invited all present to view the framed testimonial which had been prepared for presentation to John Hodgkins to express appreciation of his sterling work throughout his very considerable length of office as Field Secretary.

## ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE 1966 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes were approved.

The Headquarters Secretary drew attention to item 2 upon which he had been given action. He reported that he had followed-up his initial letter to HQ NAAFI and, as a result of continued correspondence with them throughout the year and some protracted negotiations, the NAAFI facilities offered to the Society had now been notified to cover equipment types, small discount facilities and the associated credit terms. These had come to hand unfortunately during his own sick leave and at the start of the illness of the Field Secretary, then Leslie Beaumont. These terms would now be studied and extracts considered of a worthwhile nature to overseas members would be published in the MERCURY.

## ITEM 3. THE ELECTION OF FIELD SECRETARY AND TREASURER

This had been made necessary by the move of the Headquarters station from Catterick to Blandford. Capt. Webb had volunteered to take over both these duties. This offer was heartily welcomed by the entire meeting, and the proposal that he should be elected to these offices was carried nem con.

## ITEM 4.

### a. The Field Secretary's Report

The Field Secretary apologised for any disruption in correspondence and HQ Station operation and asked if members would be willing to accept acknowledgement of letters via the

Mercury Post Bag feature in order to lighten the load to some extent. Where a definite reply is needed then a reply would be happily sent.

There will be a change in the activity operating frequencies which had been made specifically to help the DX overseas members. The frequencies would be published in the Mercury and be effective from the November period. It was hoped that there would be more activity during the specified periods and that this would lead to a greater number of members applying for the Society awards.

There had been a large shake up in the Society during the last twelve months with the HQ Station leaving CATTERICK and the Old Catterick Garrison Amateur Radio Club being reformed. This has meant the return of property and cash to the old Club in order that it could retain its previous position. The actual transfer of property and funds is shown at the end of my report and naturally reflects in the overall loss in the financial report for the year.

G3CIO kindly agreed to carry on with the Annual Old Comrades weekend commitment so long as it remains at Catterick and it is hoped that John Hodgkins would be able to carry on as the Society rep for this function. This may sound rather selfish to you all, but it was essential that a firm base be available for this annual function and as John is permanently in the area, I hope he will be able to keep the flag flying.

Despite numerous requests for articles for the Mercury, response has been very poor and it may be necessary to restrict the magazine to three issues a year. This is a retrograde step and although it will obviously mean less work for me, I would rather not have to do it.

Your Chairman has already mentioned John Walker, VQ9JW, and his selection as Society operator to the Expedition to Aldabra. As he would be out there for a six month period, there would be little difficulty in having a QSO with such an exotic call sign!!!

The Society's thanks are due to Maurice Caplan for his determined efforts before and during the NFD earlier this year. Using the HQ station as a base together with its call, Maurice urged the team into eighth position in the single station category, an excellent effort. Still with Maurice, his help as Society Publicity manager had taken a considerable load off the previous Field Secretary.

On formation of combined Society in January 1964, the assets and cash were:-

	<u>CASH/DEPOSIT</u>	<u>STOCK</u>	<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ex Catterick Club	£66. 16. 6d.	£145. 14. 9.	£253. 8. 4.	---	£465. 19. 5.
Ex R.S.A.R.S.	£155. 17. 1.	£ 10. 7. 1.	£201. 15. 0.	£45. 2. 7.	£414. 1. 9.

On separation of G3CIO and G4RS in March 1967, the assets and cash were:-

To Catterick Club	£ 75. 0. 0.	£43. 8. 10.	£204. 9. 10.	---	£324. 18. 8.
To HQ Stn & RSARS	£376. 9. 2	£19. 0. 1.	£291. 6. 1.	---	£686. 16. 2.

These figures are extracted from the Society AB 397 and Society property Book.

**b. The Treasurer's Report**

(i) A Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer as at 1st September 1967 is as below:-

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 1st. SEPTEMBER. 1967

The Society had the following Assets at:-

	<u>1 SEP '66</u>			<u>SEP '67</u>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Cash at Bank	409	6	4	376	9	2
Property Value	11475	8	4	11291	6	1
Stock Value	110	19	9	19	0	11
	<u>11996</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11686</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>

Income and Expenditure for the period Sep '66 to Sep '67 was:-

<u>INCOME</u>	£.	s.	d.	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£.	s.	d.
Members Subscriptions	156	8	6	Transfer of Property to Catterick Garrison Amateur Radio Club	204	9	10
Sale of Stock	194	8	1	Transfer Stock to Catterick Garrison Amateur Radio Club	43	8	10
				Property and Stock Write Off (Vide Revaluation Board of Mar '67)	41	2	5
				Insurances	7	8	9
				Stationary (Fd Secretary & Mercury)	1	13	0
				Postage (Fd Secretary & Mercury)	44	18	5
				Payment for Mercury articles	17	0	0
				HQ Station QSL Cards	7	9	8
				Donation - G3CJO Catterick Garrison Amateur Radio Club	75	0	0
				Donation - 14 Signal Regt Amateur Radio Club	20	0	0
				Awards Plaques	4	5	0
				Licence Fees (GB3RCS, G4RS & G3CJO)	8	0	0
				RSGB Affiliation Fee and Call Book	1	7	0
				SWM and PW Annual Subscription	3	16	0
				Purchase of Society Society QSL Cards and Notepaper	61	17	9
				Property Depreciation (HQ Station)	117	18	2
	£ 350	16	7		£ 659	14	10

LOSS OVER YEAR 1966/67 = £308. 18s. 3d.

CERTIFIED A TRUE STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY ACCOUNTS.

(ii) Outstanding dues as at 1st September total 142. These will be published in MERCURY. If payment was not received, individuals concerned would be dropped from the mailing list of MERCURY,

(iii) Capt. Webb paid tribute to Mr. Windle's personal efforts in his considerable help to raise the membership by 115 during the past year.

(iv) Members' attention was drawn to the fact that £62 had been required during the year to pay for the postage and the contributors to MERCURY. This represented a large slice of subs money received.

(v) The Awards Scheme had cost only £4. 5s. but it was anticipated that this cost would be greater in the year to come as more members qualified. Thanks must be extended to Walter Caughey (G12DZG) who had volunteered to continue to run the scheme during 67 /68.

(vi) The cost of QSL cards might have to be increased by 2/6d. to £2 for 200 plain cards and £2. 15s. for those over-printed. This increase was the result of the Selective Employment Tax reaction by the Printers. MERCURY would announce any increase if such were found necessary.

(vii) During discussion which arose, following the presentation of the accounts, the following points were salient:

- a. The President pointed out that the loss of £308 shown was in the main a "paper loss", because the transfer of property and the donation to Catterick in themselves accounted for some £350. Lt Craze in turn commented that the past year had been undeniably abnormal.
- b. It transpired that the transfer of equipment to Catterick had left the Headquarters station with little, or else very old, amateur equipment, and the station has been working thanks to the good offices of 30th Signal Regiment, who have made equipment available. The President, at this juncture, directed that this be used as a pertinent example of the Society's present vital needs, which would be related to Item 9 of the Agenda which followed.

#### ITEM 5. HEADQUARTERS STATION REPORT

This was given by Capt. Webb.

Steady progress had been made with the layout provided. There is a fair sized building but it will be available for a couple of years only, when the Blandford re-building project will require its release. The station has three operating positions, one carrying a KW 2000A loaned by 30th Signal Regiment, one not yet operational but available for VHF working, and the Marconi D 11 cabin. This has been positioned so that the cabin door opens straight into the operating area of the shack. There is a large room with receivers for use by SWL's and also magazines, books etc., and another equally large room for a workshop. A secure store and a small bunk completes the accommodation. All of the operating positions, as well as receivers, are wired through an aerial switchboard in the main operating room. The aerials are a 3 element beam loaned by 30th Signal Regiment, dipoles for 80-160m and a vertical for 40m almost finished.

We have a Station NCO (G3VYZ) who is on the air every working afternoon between 1400-1700 hrs clock times and also every Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This is in addition to activity periods on the last Sunday of each month. The station operated as GB3RCS remoted from the Horticultural Hall, during the period of the exhibition.

The usual call has been G4RS since the 1st April 1967. Our thanks are warmly extended to Mr. Corbett who made it possible for the Society to operate this call sign which he surrendered to us at our request. We regret very much the inconvenience caused to him by the use of old call books by some overseas stations which still showed G4RS at its original QTH.

We must thank John Grigsby whose hard work and skill have contributed much to the present well-being of the station.

#### ITEM 6. CATTERICK GARRISON CLUB (G3CIO)

This report was given by Capt. Webb (due to sickness or leave of Catterick personnel).

On 9th March 1961 a fully representative meeting was held at Catterick at which the Brigade Major, Headquarters Training Brigade presided. As a result of this meeting the Catterick Club was reformed on 1st April 1967 and they held their first meeting on 4th April with Capt. Greaves as Manager and Secretary, John Hodgkins as Licensee and Capt. Howe as Treasurer.

Since then running of the station has not been so fortunate. Firstly, because of Catterick Camp re-housing and building programme, the club has had three moves and is, at present, in the YPRES lines area where its site tenure is still unsure. Secondly, because of the posting of Capt. Greaves, the present illness of G3VIS (Property and QSL manager) and lastly the long illness of Major Beaumont, John Hodgkins has been running the station single-handed.

There has, however, been a face-lift on the equipment side and the majority of the gear handed back to the club prior to the Blandford move has now been exchanged for a Sommerkamp Transceiver, which has been giving excellent results.

The club has agreed to carry on the "Old Comrades" operation for as long as the "Old Comrades Week-end" remains in the Catterick area.

#### ITEM 7. AMENDMENTS TO SOCIETY RULES

It was agreed that the Society Rules should be updated and amended as follows:-

a. Paragraph 4. sub paragraph (ii)

(a) DELETE: "G3CIO" )  
INSERT: "G4RS" ) (Line 4)

(b) DELETE: "8 Signal Regiment" )  
INSERT: "School of Signals" ) (Line 11)

b. DELETE paragraph 7. and SUBSTITUTE:

"The Council shall comprise..

- (i) Representatives from each Command who shall represent all Clubs and members of their Command.
- (ii) A representative from the School of Signals.
- (iii) A representative from the Training Brigade.
- (iv) A representative from each Overseas Command and BOAR, where this is possible.

#### ITEM 8. SELECTION OF AUDITOR

Major Symons and F of S Walmsley had offered to carry out this task in accordance with paragraph 9 of Society Rules. Their appointment was confirmed.

#### ITEM 9. CORPS RECOGNITION OF SOCIETY

The President explained that the Society had, in fact, been granted a "once and for all" grant by the Corps Committee in 1961.

However, in late July this year an updated case for the Society was submitted to RHQ to put before the Corps Committee. Since this submission it had been decided that a further supporting paper was needed to strengthen the Society case for a grant from the Committee which would financially cover the vital needs of the Society spread over a 5-year period. The full case will have been prepared and will be awaiting the Corps Committee's action by mid-October.

#### ITEM 10. DONATION OF SOCIETY QSL CARDS TO VQ9JW

Following some discussion upon the costs of ordering QSL cards obtained from various printers, it was decided nem con that John Walker be supplied with cards to the top limit of £25. This amount would be re-considered by the Council as found necessary.

#### ITEM 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Field Secretary had asked John Hodgkins for his assistance in tracing the holders of eight Heathkit equipments. From information solicited from members present the locations of four were established. After some discussion the President suggested that MERCURY would be the most effective means of pinpointing the whereabouts of this and other items of amateur equipment.
- b. Major Philp raised the matter of publicity as Lt. Caplan had recently been posted to BAOR. F of S Walmsley had agreed to carry out publicity duties pending the arrival of Capt. Scott on 27th November.
- c. G5PM appealed for help for spare antennae equipment. Lt. Col. Nepean agreed to supply.
- d. S/Sgt. Jack asked that stations abroad be requested to publish their operating frequencies. The Field Secretary took note.
- e. G8VG raised the question of morse proficiency runs but it was agreed that slow morse transmissions following the usual RSGB pattern would be more suitable. This would be arranged as soon as possible.

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#### R.S.A.R.S. HEATHKIT EQUIPMENT

As you may have seen from the A.G.M. minutes (AOB Item 11(a)) there is some uncertainty as to the whereabouts of various pieces of Society Amateur radio equipment. It is unfortunate but there are numerous difficulties in accounting for all our equipment on a strictly QM basis. More is the pity because the value of the gear is not to be sneezed at.

In an endeavour to get our books in order here at the HQ Station, would any members who have any of the type of gear listed below please drop me a line saying what you have, where it (and you) are, whether or not it has been signed for and if so from whom.

The gear has been loaned out in good faith over the past couple of years, and has formed the nucleus from which quite a number of you have been able to start your own or possibly a Club station.

Please drop me a line, even if you already have the equipment on signature, in order to get ourselves sorted out.

Your help and indulgence will be greatly appreciated.

The equipment?

AR 88 LF  
Transmitter DX 40 U  
RCA Headsets  
Brass Morse Keys (GPO Pattern)

Loudspeaker PM 9"  
VFO VF1U  
ACOS Crystal Microphone

Thank you very much.

73  
Ray Webb  
Field Secretary & Treasurer

RULES FOR THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO AWARD

1. The object of this award is to encourage activity amongst the transmitting and listener members of Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.
2. The award is available to all individual members of the Society and the affiliated clubs subject to the conditions laid down in these rules.
3. The award will be made in two classes and will consist of a certificate for the Class II award and a Royal Signals plaque for the Class I award.
4. Transmitting members must furnish proof of contact and Short Wave Listener members proof of having heard, member stations as detailed below:-

For the Class II award:

25 member stations including the Society's HQ station G4RS/GB3RCS

For the Class I award:

50 member stations including the Society's HQ station G4RS/GB3RCS.

5. Members may either submit QSL cards or other written confirmation or a list certified by two licensed radio amateurs, an officer of a National radio society or an Officer of Royal Signals. Such a list must take the following form:

"This is to certify that I have examined QSL cards or other written confirmation from the stations listed below which confirm contacts made by/reports submitted by station .....

Signed .....  
Appointment/Callsign .....

Signed .....  
Appointment/Callsign .....

Date	Time	Freq. Band	Callsign of Member station contacted/heard
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6. Member stations contacted/heard after 1 Jan 1965 will count towards this award. For the purposes of the Award the same member operating under different callsigns from different countries will count separately under each callsign. Thus G3NJM and 9M4MB although operated by the same member count as two member stations.

However, contacts made by this member under either callsign will count towards his own award.

7. Claims together with the supporting evidence should be sent to:-

Mr. W. E. Caughey, Awards Manager RSARS,  
Gilnahirk Park, Cherry Valley,  
Belfast 5, Northern Ireland.

8. Details of awards presented will be published in MERCURY.
9. Transmitting members of the Society are asked to scrutinise all listener reports received and to assist by issuing QSL cards to listener members of the Society. Listener members are asked to ensure that their report cards are clearly marked "Member Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society".

AVAILABLE FROM HQ

Members' Notepaper This is a good quality whitepaper and costs 8/4d. per 100 sheets post free.  
Members' QSL Cards The basic card cost 37/6d. per 500 post free. We can overprint your callsign, Name and address in black, red, blue or green for a further 15/- per 500, making a total price of 52/6d. per 500, less than a penny farthing each.

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ORDER FORM  
(Block letters please)

NAME ..... CALLSIGN.....

ADDRESS.....

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for ..... Please supply:-  
..... sheets of Members Notepaper at 8/4d per 100  
..... Basic QSL cards at 37/6 per 500  
..... QSL cards overprinted in .....(State colour) at 52/6 per 500

Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed and made payable to  
ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY and post to:-

Captain (QM) R.A. WEBB, R. Signals  
30th Signal Regiment,  
Blandford Camp,  
BLANDFORD FORUM,  
Dorset.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

I wish to apply for membership of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society as under:-

SUM ENCLOSED

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (5/- per year) .....

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (£2/2/-) .....

CLUB AFFILIATION (10/- per year) .....

SURNAME..... CHRISTIAN NAME.....

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE .....

CALL ..... SIGNATURE ..... DATE .....

PLEASE RETURN TO :- Captain (QM) R.A. WEBB, R. Signals  
30th Signal Regiment,  
Blandford Camp,  
BLANDFORD FORUM,  
Dorset