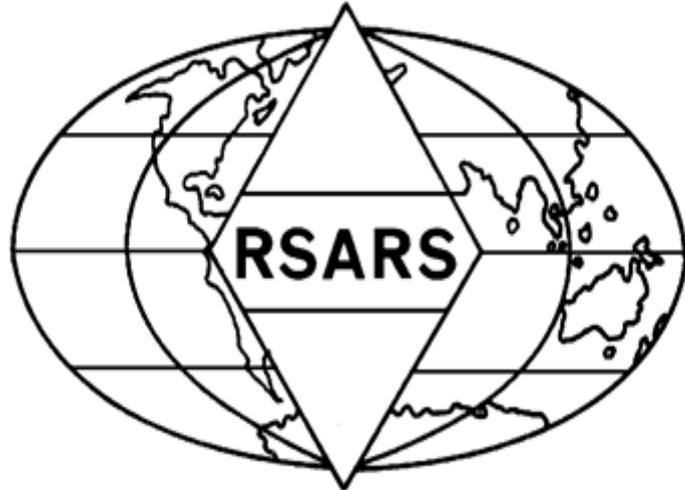


MERCURY



NUMBER 63

JULY 1979

<u>PRESIDENT :</u>	Brigadier N.A. Butler CBE	
<u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u>	Major General (Retd), E.S. Cole, CB, CBE,	G2EC
<u>LIFE HONORARY</u>	Capt. (Retd) J. Cooper, FSERT T Eng (CEI)	G3DPS
<u>VICE PRESIDENTS:</u>	Capt. (Retd) C. Mountjoy	GW3ASW GW4CCF
<u>GENERAL SECRETARY:</u>	Major (QM) R.A. Webb, FSERT T Eng (CEI) 3, Hillcrest, Scotton, Catterick Garrison, <u>North Yorkshire, DL9 3NJ.</u> (Catterick Camp 2809)	G3EKL
<u>EDITOR "MERCURY":</u>	Capt. (Retd) J. Cooper, FSERT T Eng (CEI), "Beirnfels", Old Odiham Road, Alton, <u>Hants. GU34 4BP.</u> (Alton 86235)	G3DPS
<u>TREASURER :</u>	Mr. R. <u>Walmsley</u> , c/o General Secretary.	G3IBB
<u>HQ STATION MANAGER & LIBRARIAN:</u>	Sgt. Hall C.J., 37 Somerset Close, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire <u>DL9 3HE</u>	G4EMX
<u>CONTEST AND AWARDS MANAGER:</u>	c/o General Secretary.	
<u>QSL BUREAU MANAGER:</u>	Mr. J. Button, , 13 <u>Taplings Road</u> , Weeke, Winchester, G3YSK. Hants., <u>SO22 6HE</u> (Winchester 883524)	
<u>NON-SERVING MEMBERS REP:</u>	Lt. Col. (Retd) D.A. Barry, 7 <u>Brackendens</u> , <u>Brickett Wood</u> , St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3SX	G3ONU
<u>NON-SERVING MEMBERS REP:</u>	Maj. (Retd) D.W.J. Haylock, 6, St. Marks Avenue, <u>Bilton Rugby, Warwicks.</u> , CV22 7NP.	G3ADZ
<u>SOCIETY STORES MANAGER:</u>	S/Sgt Ford R.S., Mil Adm. M.V.E.E. Box 2, <u>Chobham Lane, Chertsey, Surrey.</u> KT16 0EE.	G3NKO
<u>HEADQUARTERS STATION:</u>	Hut Messines 52, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, G4RS GR 181966 QRA Locator Z042e WAB SE19 G3CIO	

SOCIETY FEES : £2 (Two Pounds Sterling) per annum. Life Membership £20 (Twenty Pounds) after three years consecutive Annual Membership. Fees for affiliation by Clubs - £2 (Two Pounds Sterling) per annum only. Annual Membership fees are due on 2nd January each year irrespective of the month in which the member joined. Members joining on or after 1st September are granted the remainder of that year FREE providing that fees for the following year are paid at the time of joining. Fees may be paid by Bankers Order. In the event of non-payment of fees, "Mercury" will not be forwarded after the Spring edition and the members name will be removed from the membership list on April 30th in accordance with Rule 9. The General Secretary reserves the right not to forward copies of "Mercury" if two or more editions are returned "Not known at this address". Membership dates from the 1st of the month in which application is accepted.

"MERCURY" ARTICLES : Unless specifically implied or stated, views and opinion expressed and/or statements made in "Mercury" do NOT necessarily represent the view of the Society, its Council or its Officers. Copyright of all printed articles remains with the author. Reprinted articles are published with the permission of the last known publisher and the author where possible. Articles for "Mercury" are always required, preferably typewritten, or in legible handwriting, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. ALL LETTERS, ARTICLES, ETC., RECEIVED BY SOCIETY OFFICIALS MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION UNLESS ENDORSED "NOT FOR PUBLICATION". Neither the Editor nor the Society can be held responsible for errors, omissions, etc., although every care is taken to ensure accuracy. Short extracts from articles published in "Mercury" may be reprinted elsewhere for review purposes etc. without permission. Full reprints may only be made with the approval of the author. Such approval can be sought through the Editor of "Mercury". In either case full acknowledgement should be made to the author, "Mercury" and The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. An Award is made for the best "Mercury" article each year.

CONTENTS

JULY 1979

Society Details	Inside cover
Letter from General Secretary G3EKL	
Editorial	1
The Sounds of Battle and GB2LBL (G3ADZ/RSARS 0039).....	2
"Best Mercury Article" result	3
Measles Morse and Mobilisation (Contd. From "Mercury" 3/79) (By A.D. Taylor G8PG)	3
Operating Sked	5
Sidetone for the TS-700.....	6
Did you Know?.....	7
Another Tech-Tip	8
Beef Island - A Chronicle of Events (VP2VEH/G4CZJ/RSARS 0701)	8
Don't Believe all you See!	11
QRM? - Or Not Quite Radio (G4FKJ/RSARS 1212)	12
FT-101-E Receiver Modifications (G4FKJ/RSARS 1212).....	12
Marine Radio Interference Suppression (Lucas Marine)	13
Sheepskin Department	15
Stop the Russian Woodpecker	15
The Owl Report	16
Tech-Tip (Walter G3NXM/0136).....	19
Wanna Worka VE3?.....	19
Returning Home.....	19
Key-Tronics	19
Have you?.....	19
Welcome	20
CW Nets (Dennis G3ADZ/0039).....	22
Silent Key	23
Oscillators (Contd.) (By H.L. Williams G3WZS/0781).....	24
Awards and Contests Report.....	26
Mail Box	28
Can You Help?	33
RADCOMEX 79	33
NFD - 1979.....	34
CB - Yet Again	34
Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting 30 June 1979.....	35
"Tail End Charlie"	43
Membership List.....	45
Resume of Society Contests.....	53
Stores List.....	54

NOTE: The Membership List referred to in Ray's open letter as being on pages 30-36 has been placed in its intended position after 'Tail End Charlie' and is now pages 45-52.

THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND GB2LBL.

G3ADZ/RSARS 0039.

Numbers and types of hobby are almost infinite. Among the more energetic pastimes for those who are fit, and who do not object to the occasional bruise, are those who gather together in large numbers to re-enact past battles. One such group are the English Civil War Society who agreed, in conjunction with the Lutterworth (Leicestershire) & District Branch of The Royal British Legion to stage a show at Stanford Hall on 9th and 10th June 1979. This resulted in a most realistic display, and a good time was had by all, apart from a few complaints of deafness on the following days.

At a fairly late stage of planning, Geoff Dodgshon, G4DNC, was asked to arrange for an amateur radio Special Events Station. He decided that it would be most appropriate for this to be R.S.A.R.S. Over a couple of meetings and a good many phone calls, Geoff, together with Pat, G4DR, Alan, G3GHS, and the writer, made the decision that such a project was just possible to organise within the time available, but we should need a bit of further practical help on the days. The initial response and interest was quite good, for various reasons some people could not make it, but aid was forthcoming from G3NVK, G3UAA, G3WKM and G3HST.

Much credit for the success of the venture is due to 89 Signal Squadron TAVR (Rugby), who very kindly provided, including labour, two 46' masts for our G5RV plus a wire beam on 21 MHz designed by Alan, and a 68' mast for our Yagi on 144 MHz. The TAVR also loaned us the station power supply. The week-end was used for military trade tests, to say nothing of the very necessary guard on the large quantities of "black powder" needed for the battle, and other communications and site security requirements. Army, Navy, RAF and RM Cadets were also in camp, and put on some very good displays including help with the log-keeping of the station.

Geoff's very nice and almost new Drake TR-7 was the main HF/LF rig. The rest of the station equipment came mainly from Geoff and Pat, with a few other bits and pieces thrown in by Alan and myself. The fact that during most of the time the longer distance QSOs were on 2 Metres rather than 40 and 80 speaks for the very rough band conditions, not aided, from our viewpoint, by N.F.D. and other Contests - but, after all, we did not choose the date!! Our General Secretary kindly agreed to allocate F22 to the station for R.S.A.R.S. contact purposes, and in spite of the usual problems of "field conditions" plus the state of the HF/LF bands, we did manage to QSO some 60 members. All should by now have received a special QSL card, but if any are missing, G4DNC has the log for duplicates. All were despatched via R.S.G.B./R.S.A.R.S. The best DX worked was YV and probably the most unusual was A4 in Oman.

Not to be accused of missing out on the "Thank you" list, the co-operation of the Leicester Repeater Group on letting us use GB3CF was also much appreciated. We were pleased to have the usual chats with a number of Mobiles, other Special Event Stations and some hand-held "black boxes" on Two.

As a final note, the weather was fairly kind for once. Although we did not see much sunshine, both days were fairly dry after heavy rain early on the Saturday, and we were able to run the station on tables outside the tent for the whole week-end.

73 Dennis G3ADZ/0039.

(If you are able to organise a Special Events Station similar to the one above, be sure and keep the Society informed. Try and make sure that the edition of "Mercury" which carries your 'info' is due for publication at least two months before the event. This allows the majority of members to be waiting for you if you include operating skeds and frequencies. If you have no fixed operating frequencies why not try R.S.A.R.S. FREQUENCIES PLUS OR MINUS ON THE HOUR". The above report also shows that liaison with your local TAVR Unit and/or Cadet Force can be helpful. Oh, and don't forget some from of Public Liability Insurance! - Ed.).





Not really a portrait of your Editor, but it may well have been in view of the poor response to the "Best Mercury Article" requests. To those who took the time and trouble to vote - many thanks. The final figures worked out as follows:

MEASLES, MORSE AND MOBILISATION	51
KEY-TRONICS	49
LET'S TALK ABOUT SIGNAL REPORTING	30
OSCILLATORS	30
THE EARLY DAYS	15
POW RADIO	8
WARC (G3EJF)	6
WARC (G3ADZ)	4
WARC (G4CGT)	3
A TRIP TO MARS	2

G8PG will therefore be the recipient of the "Best Mercury Article" Award. Well Done!

(Thanks to the Amateur Radio News Service Bulletin for the picture. They got it from The Kansas Army MARS Bulletin who captioned it "A self-portrait of your Bulletin editor AAM0NW after finishing the Bulletin". We editors have it tough!!!.)



MEASLES, MORSE AND MOBILISATION - Contd.

A.D. TAYLOR G8PG.

In the autumn of 1937 I joined the old Royal Naval Wireless Auxiliary Reserve, although officially under age. They grabbed me quick when they found that I could read 22 w.p.m. which was the speed required for a qualified Telegraphist. This Reserve wore no uniform in peacetime, and it was divided into Units of 10 people up and down the country. There was no bounty but you could do 14 days annual paid training at a RN Signal School if you wished. The Navy also provided a crystal for your Unit frequency (in the 3.6 - 3.8 MHz region) but you provided your own TX and RX. It was a very efficient and interesting organisation, and every Friday the Admiralty came up and took traffic to and from local Units. Warships also occasionally worked RNWAR stations. My call was NJ4 and my best "DX" was when I worked HMS Barham when she was lying in Gibraltar. This was with the W3EDP aerial.

About the same time our local Club had a junk sale and I bought a PX4 triode for sixpence (this valve later became well known in the output stage of the Leak Amplifiers). A bread board was bought from Woolworths, and a new TX was built in which the 89 Tritet C.O. drove the PX4 as a neutralised P.A. It worked very well indeed. About the same time I got hold of a Top Band crystal for a couple of bob, the previous owner muttering something about it "being a bit erratic at times". This was true, as after about 30 minutes of use it would stop oscillating completely. When this happened the only cure was to leave it for a couple of hours or so, after which it recovered. I never discovered the cause of the problem - it was not overheating, as washing the rock in cold water made no difference. When things were going right many good contacts were made on the Band, but no DX was worked. Top Band DX had just come back into fashion, thanks to the efforts of W1BB and G6FO, and our star local, G6GL, worked W and VE around this time.

Measuring instruments were always a headache for the pre-war amateur. An 0 - 50 moving coil meter cost the equivalent of about £30 in present day money. I had one very mankey moving iron

MEASLES. MORSE AND MOBILISATION - Contd

mA meter, no voltmeter, and, for a while, a hot wire RF meter. When the latter gave up the ghost, the aerial was tuned by inserting a 15 Watts electric lamp in series with it and adjusting everything for maximum brilliance. This seemed just as good as an ammeter. Another invaluable tool was a flashlight bulb connected across a single turn of wire mounted on a wooden rod. This single turn could be coupled to any coil in the TX and, if RF was present, the lamp would glow. Every so often there was too much RF about and one bought a new bulb!. The other mainstay instrument was an absorption wavemeter, also using a flashlight bulb as an indicator. All crude, but very effective and after a few months experience you could tune any TX for maximum output.

One thing that would shake many present-day amateurs is just how few licences there were in Europe at that time. Less than a thousand in the U.K., and perhaps only 20 to 50 in some of the smaller European countries. This meant that activity at off-peak times could be very low indeed. Sometimes on a week-day you could tune 7 MHz for 30 minutes before you heard a signal, and it could be an hour or more on 14 MHz. At other times QRM could be very high, however. The Spanish Civil War was in full swing during the Winter of 1937/1938, and at night 7MHz was often a solid mass of Spanish stations. One part of the crowd were over modulated broadcast stations, and the remainder was made up of chirpy, unstable CW signals from transmitters with calls like SNT99. The broadcast stations were mainly rooting for Franco, but I never did find out which side the CW stations were from. Early in 1939 I saw a Franco Division being landed in the Canary Islands for demob, and judging by the ghastly arrangements made for dealing with the wounded - men with one arm trying to help men with one leg along the quayside - it must have been a rough War, as this was the winning side!.

During the Winter of 1937/1938 operation continued. The first W was worked on 7 MHz, and FB8 and KH6 were worked on 14. Some interesting QRP stations were also worked. G6ZN, the village Bobby at Horbury in Yorkshire, used to wield a potent 3 W signal using dry batteries as an HT supply. His record DX was 30 contacts with the U.S.A. in 30 minutes during the A.R.R.L. DX Contest. I doubt if any present day station will ever equal that one (The 1978 Call-Book shows G6ZN still listed and still living at Horbury - Ed.). Another character I worked, located in Berwick-on-Tweed, derived his HT supply from a hand driven generator, turning it with his left hand while keying with his right!!. He got about 5 W when feeling really fresh, and said that 14 w.p.m. with the right hand seemed to synchronise nicely with the speed at which he had to turn the handle with his left hand. At least one G station was using a pedal generator at this time, but I never worked him.

There were not many Portable stations around in pre-war days. A second licence had to be obtained for such work, and a separate call-sign was issued, solely for portable operation. The power limit was 10 W, and operation could only take place within a 10 mile radius of the centre point named in the licence. The only exception was N.F.D., when each R.S.G.B. district was allowed to nominate two stations which were allowed to operate portable for the duration of the Contest. In District 1 one station was run by the Manchester lads and the other by the chaps in the Merseyside area. My home at that time was Heswall, Wirral, and in '37 and '38, the Merseyside station, G2OA, (Also still listed - Ed.) was set up on Heswall Football Field, about a mile from our house. G2OA would bring along his home station rig for the event, including a National SW5, one of the most famous commercially made T.R.F. receivers. A large supply of 12 Volts accs. would arrive in a plain van, together with a 500 Volts D.C. genny for the H.T. These were not unconnected with the P.S.I. of 55 Div. Signal Regiment, our local T.A. Unit, who was, at that time, a certain Jack Drudge-Coates, better known as G2DC. In 1938 we racked up the best 80 Metre score in the Contest. The aerial was hung from a 40ft 'A' frame mast knocked up on the spot by G2OA before the contest started. He did not want the bother of taking it down again, so sold it for ten bob at the end of the day, and I became the owner of a second mast. Roy Barlow and I dismantled it, then we got it home by wheeling it on the handlebars of Roy's bike.

MEASLES. MORSE AND MOBILISATION - Contd

There was enough room at home to get this mast about 90 ft from the house at right angles to the run of the existing aerial. Once it was up I used it to support a second W3EDP aerial. At first I was going to switch from one to the other, but then had the idea of connecting the second aerial in place of the counterpoise so producing a 90 degree angle Vee antenna. This worked extremely well and soon added places like VE4 and SU to the Log.

I had continued my RNWAR training, having attended the Signal School at HMS Victory, Portsmouth, and passed out as Telegraphist (Qualified). This entitled me to pay at Twenty three Shillings per week when actually serving. Came October 1938 and the Munich Crisis. The call-up papers for my own RNWAR Unit did not arrive until things were just about over, so I rang the Unit Petty Officer and asked if we were going. The answer was an emphatic "Yes!". I thought, in my innocence that this showed great keenness and patriotism, not knowing that the buzz had got around that every Reservist who reported was being given a months pay and that there might be other pickings!

We duly entrained late that night and, apart from temporarily losing one Unit Petty Officer, one train and one large crate of beer arrived at Devonport without incident around noon the next day. Here the old, pre-War, supremely efficient Navy took over. Within five minutes of stepping off the train we were sitting down to a hot meal, then we were marched off to the famous Devonport Drill Shed (where, on one occasion, 5000 men were drilled completely under cover), which was the mobilisation centre. This literally had everything, including a free running buffet to while away the time. As an expert on mobilisations - I have done two for real, Munich (Royal Navy) and Suez (Army) plus two for practice (Army) I rate that particular one as the best organised I have seen. They had taken in about 15,000 Reservists in 3 days and the system was still coping, except that all available kit had been issued. This turned out to be one of the "other pickings", at least in my case. A R.N. rating always owns his kit, buying it from approved tailors after initial issue. When we reached the Paymaster we were given a month's pay plus £5 to buy our kit but when we got to the Purser (Naval Q.M.) the cupboard was bare, and I walked away with £10 in my hot little hand - the biggest sum of money I had ever owned up to that time. We all signed on for 12 years, or for the duration (Naval ratings are not sworn in, they sign an agreement with the Admiralty) and after 2 days were sent home on indefinite leave. This fooled nobody, and the general farewell was "See you next year around the same time".

From October onwards, amateur radio took a back seat as I was up to my eyes preparing for my exams. I sat them early in December, and a week later received the coveted P.M.G. Certificate qualifying me to serve as a Merchant Navy Radio Officer. The next four weeks were spent perfecting my typing of Morse, as any junior R.O. who could copy Press by the hour on a typewriter was smiled upon by his Chief, buying uniform (the Navy Kit Money helped to pay!) and packing away the ham gear. I was, at this time, honourably discharged from the RNWAR. I did not take down the masts, as a 100 m.p.h. gale broke them both - a symbolic occurrence and a warning of the bigger storm to come 9 months later. On 22nd January 1939 I signed on as 3rd Radio Officer in R.M.S. "Laconia", GJCD, later to be tragically sunk during the evacuation from France. But when this happened I was 6,000 miles away off the coast of Brazil. It would be 7 years in time, 6 years of sea service and one World War later before G8PG would be heard again.



OPERATING SKED.

VS6GY, RSARS 1204 (see OWL notes elsewhere) sends along the following operating times : 14:005 - 14:030, CW, Occasionally 14:270 SSB and SEANET, 21:030 - 21:050 CW, 28:050 - 28:100 CW, 28:450 - 28:520 SSB. Other active Hong Kong calls are VS6FI, VS6EN, VS6EZ, VS6CW and VS6JG. VS6GY's main operating times - 10:00 - 15:00 hours GMT.

SIDETONE FOR THE TS-700.

GW3GHC/RSARS 0098.

I purchased one of the early models of the TS-700 and was very disappointed to find that it had no method of monitoring CW.

The modification of recent commercial gear is considered to be inadvisable if the appearance is changed. Even modifications which materially improve the performance can result in a reduction in the resale value.

When considering the sidetone monitor the following points were taken into consideration :

- 1) Unchanged appearance,
- 2) No holes to be drilled anywhere,
- 3) RF keying circuits to be unchanged,
- 4) No other changes to circuitry, and
- 5) Easy removal without trace.

The removal of the case revealed a space on the bottom, probably intended to accommodate additional facilities on later models. The space had a hole in each corner, which can be used for mounting a board.

Inspection of the circuit diagram revealed that the RF is keyed by removing a negative bias on the gates of a pair of FET's in the MIX UNIT (X48-1080-00). The 3SK35's comprise a mixer stage which under key-up conditions has -6v applied to the board and hence to the gates via a potential divider consisting of two 100 K ohm resistors and a diode. The "earthy" end of the first 100 K ohm resistor is shorted to chassis in the key-down position.

The circuit could not be used to provide a power source for an oscillator or to drive a relay without modification, but can be used to key an audio signal in the same manner as the mixer. It was found also that the audio amplifier was fully operational during transmit and could therefore be fed by a low-level audio signal.

The solution was therefore a single audio oscillator stage with an FET switching stage between it and the existing audio amplifier.

I had previously used a "Twin-T" oscillator as a tone-burst unit for a FM rig and found that it functioned very well ("RadCom", February 1975, page 123) despite rumours that it would not function. A single FET switching stage is all that is necessary to switch the audio on when the key is operated.

The power supply for the unit is picked from a point which is only energised when the TS-700 is in the "CW TRANSMIT" mode.

The Output to the FM stage is adjusted by the 25 K Ohm miniature pre-set potentiometer. The capacitive divider also reduces the output and the lower C provides some shaping of the audio sidetone in conjunction with the 350 K ohm resistor which couples the gate of the FET to the keying circuit.

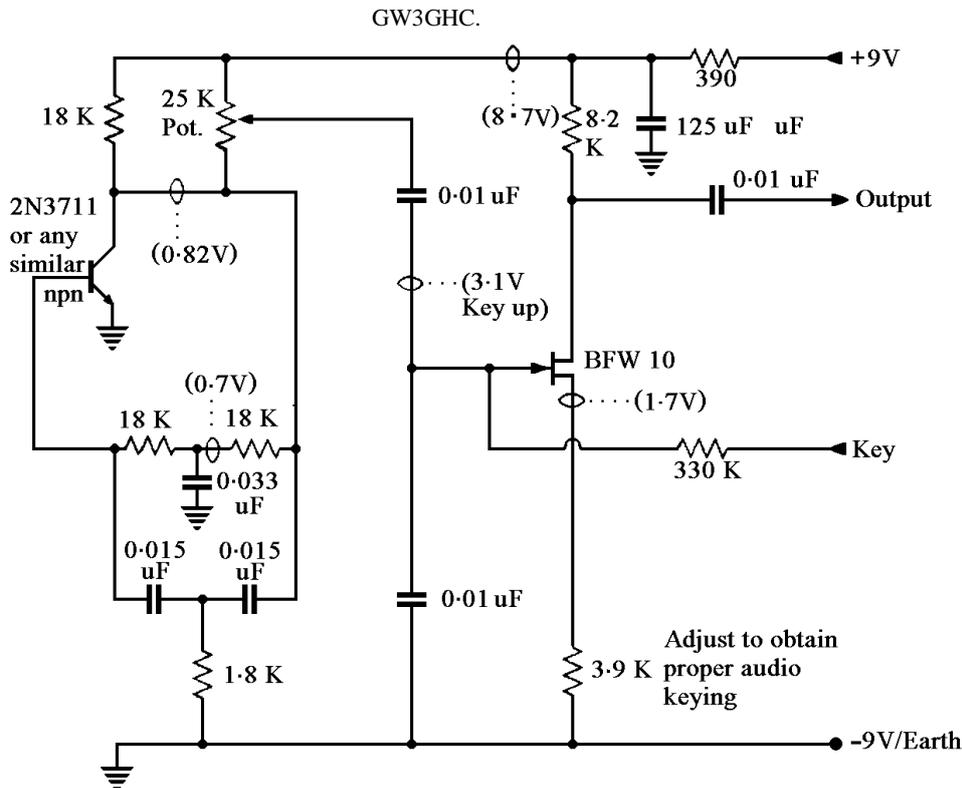
There is ample audio output and the pre-set is set near the "earthy" end of the track to set the sidetone at a level compatible with the average incoming signals at the normal audio gain set-up. The audio gain operates on sidetone as on normal signals. The note is a reasonable pitch for monitoring and the effect is as good as most commercial rigs. The pitch can be adjusted providing the correct ratios are maintained between Rs and Cs. (See ARRL Handbook and ARRL VHF Handbook, 3rd Edition, page 270).

Components do not seem to be critical, although only two versions have been built both operated without problems. The FET source resistor was the only part which had to be experimentally determined. The transistor and FET were out of the Surplus Box, the former off a junk PCB.

The unit was assembled on a small piece of Veroboard which occupies half the space previously mentioned and is held in position by two self-tapping screws in existing holes. Take care to remove the tracks (or cut them) so that they are not shorted to chassis where the board overlaps the chassis

SIDETONE FOR THE TS-700 - Contd.

The connections to the printed circuit board are made by wrapping the additional connections around the existing wire wrapping points. Soldering is generally eliminated as far as connections to existing circuitry is concerned. Therefore removal should take only a few minutes. (Diagram below - Ed)



+9V from terminal "CWT" on Carr. Unit (X50-1160-00)
 Output to terminal "AFU" on AF Unit (X49-1060-00)
 Key to terminal "Key" on Mixer Unit (X48-1080-00)
 Voltages in brackets are as measured on a 100K/Volt Voltmeter.



DID YOU KNOW.....?

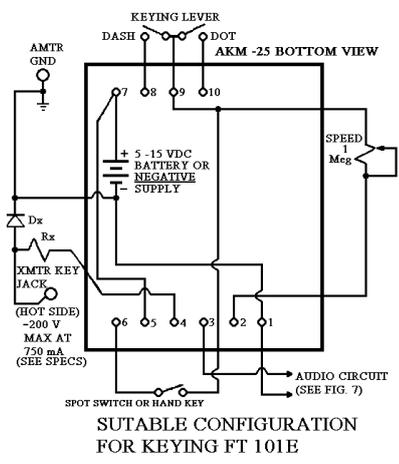
Brighton, Sussex, was, in 1933, the first town to equip its police with radio on the beat. It was one-way only (HQ to police). The equipment was, apparently, pocket-sized and operated on 147.8 Metres. It is also reported, but not confirmed, that the Brighton Police Force also experimented with "in-the-helmet" radio receivers. (For good measure, Brighton was also the first town to install flashing beacons at pedestrian crossings). (That last bit came from the OWL - Ed.).

That during WWII the British Fourth Army was understood to have its HQ in bunkers under Edinburgh Castle, consist of 250,000 men and have a blue and red square shoulder flash. In actual fact, it never existed. It was part of D-day deception!.

ANOTHER TECH-TIP.

The following was sent along by Pat Buchanan from Jerusalem and should be of interest to AKM-25 and TR-4C/FTDX-101 users. We hereby make due acknowledgements to the Control Signal Company, 5964 West Columbia Place, Denver, Colorado, 80227, USA, for the information below.

Several AKM-25 users have reported some difficulty obtaining proper keying with certain grid - block keyed transmitters, particularly the TR-4C and FTDX-101. The reason for the problem is that, in the Figure 1 configuration, the key line may not go close enough to ground potential. The diagram presented here should provide proper operation in this case. Dx can be any silicon diode with a peak-inverse-voltage rating equal to or greater than the open-circuit key line voltage. A value of 10K ohms for Rx should be sufficient unless the key line draws a heavier-than-average current. If the key line voltage does not drop to zero with your keyer spot switch closed, Rx should be reduced in value until the key-down voltage does drop to zero.



BEEF ISLAND - A CHRONICLE OF EVENTS.
VP2VEH/G4CZJ/RSARS 0701.

It is October 1977. G4CZJ to G5YN "Evan, I've heard that there is a certain Unit going to the Caribbean early next year - Wonder what the chances are of being attached for an Amateur Radio DX-pedition?".

G5YN (After a long pause) "Um, I'll have a word with the President".

At this stage Rumour Control had Evens on Antigua or Anguilla and 10 to 1 on the Bahamas. December 1977 saw G4CZJ on Fire Fighting Duties. A Signal is received from HQ UKLF - "..... You are to be attached to ***** from January 20th 1978 until February 10th 1978 for Exercise *****".

Heart skips a beat and hand reaches for the telephone. G4CZJ to Ops Officer "Fine, Sir, I know when I'm going, I know what I'm doing, but where am I going?" Ops Officer "Beef Island". G4CZJ "Where!?!". Ops Officer "don't ask me, look on a map".

Replace telephone and reach for ARRL Countries List - throw away Countries List and again reach for telephone - "Is that the Radio Regulatory Department?. Do we have a Reciprocal Agreement with the administration for Beef Island?". R.R.D. "Where!?!". Replace telephone again and ponder. The OWLs on holiday, Jack is now a civilian - ah!, Ray, G3EKL!.

G4CZJ to G3EKL "Ray, where is Beef Island?". Ray "*/'*/'+ " Where!?!".

The reader will have gathered by now that Beef Island is not exactly of world renown. Carefully studying maps of the Caribbean revealed that it is loosely attached (by a bridge) to the capital island of the British Virgin Islands - Tortola.

So, copies of U.K. licence, Morse Certificate, Birth Certificate, etc. were speedily despatched to the Post-Master-General, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, with a pleading story for a temporary licence.

After talking to G3EKL and having refusals from several large Amateur Radio suppliers, it was decided to take the HQ FT-101-E, SB-200 Linear and as many useful goodies that could be acquired.

A beam was impractical for air freighting, so wire antennas were to be the order of the day.

BEEF ISLAND - A CHRONICLE OF EVENTS - Contd.

JANUARY 10th.

All is packed and ready to go - don't think I've forgotten anything - spare valves, two mics, two keys (one for each foot!), log book and bags of coffee. Have just found out that freight is going separate to passengers - that could be interesting - have met these problems before - passengers in the Caribbean, freight in Hong Kong!. Keep fingers crossed and trust in "Crabair".

JANUARY 22nd.

Off we go via the Azores and into Antigua by VC-10. Purchase post-cards and not-so-cheap cigarettes. Bit early in the day for rum, so have a beer. Regret it. Someone suggests we are going to Beef Island by Hercules aircraft due to short airstrip? Purchase bottle of rum. Enjoy it. Fears come true - tactical landing at Tortola International Airport. Have done this kind of landing before, so raise rear end off seat by 6 inches before touchdown. We are down. Look around at pained expressions on other faces. Wonder why!!!.

JANUARY 23rd.

This day dawns bright and far too early (05:15 hrs). Must set up station. Spot disused bungalows on waterfront. Make enquiries and cross palm of SQMS. A great QTH!. Fully air-conditioned (no glass in windows) and running water (roof leaks like a sieve). Good take-off across bay towards Europe. Search for Equipment, Fly Spray, Elsan Toilet, Insect Repellent, etc. Find large crate with "Fragile, Handle with Extreme Care" stencilled on side. Surprise, surprise! - it did arrive!.

Install station in bungalow. Erect 36 ft. mast. Cut 80 Metre dipole to length. Connect. Ready to power up and resonate antenna. Meet snag number one - no power. Have words with Electrician. He mutters something about a planned installation for 110 Volts @ 60 Hz. Borrow 250 Volts 50 Hz generator. Check output - 275 Volts off load, 10 volts on load. Have further words with Electrician. Power now steady and antenna reconnected. Time for a beer. Snag number two - the fridge, loaned by a Tortolan firm and for 110 Volts, has been wired up to 240 Volts. Ignore comments that "The beer will be twice as cold then". Forget about beer. Tune up on 3.790 MHz. Test - "This is G4CZJ/Portable VP2V". Check S.W.R. All OK. 20 db over 59 voice from speaker says "This is VP2VJ, Welcome to Tortola". Hand starts shaking and beads of sweat appear on brow. "I wondered when you were arriving. Pop into the office in the morning and I'll give you your VP2 call-sign. Use your U.K. call-sign 'till then". Mop brow and thank voice very much. Working and legal - where's the DX!?. The time is 17:30 hrs local 21:30 - "CQ DX from G4CZJ/VP2". Back comes a G3 at 5 and 9. Looks promising - six pages of Log Book later decide that the dipole seems to work OK. 0059 - the first RSARS member - G3WMZ.

JANUARY 24th.

Early visit to Telecomms Office in Tortola. Pay \$US 15:00 and walk out with VP2VEH Licence and invitation to lunch. Accept invitation and read licence over a can of Budweiser. VP2VEH is licensed to operate on all amateur bands using any mode with a power of 1 kW. Read again. No, it's true - it says so!. Wonder if I can quickly mod. SB-200 for Top Band - 1 kW, Um!. No mention of P.E.P. or D.C. input or plate dissipation. Wonder where I can borrow a Henry 3 kW Linear? Lunch arrives and so do three local amateurs - VP2VAT, VP2VPG and VP2VBK. (Many pleasant visits were to be made by these three amateurs to my QTH over the next two weeks!). Arrive back at QTH, rather mellow and ready for the DX - take a long hard look at the coconut palms alongside the shack and decide to erect a ZL Special. Hastily work out dimensions and make up an array. Luckily brought some flat twin 75 ohms for phasing lines. Cajole locals into climbing trees. Test and resonate - VSWR looks good at 1.3:1 on 3.790 MHz. At 1730 hours Local check into Caribbean Hurricane Warning Net. VP2AYG is Net Control at Antigua and 5 and 9+. Weather forecast is good although showers due later. QSY to 3.798 MHz. Lots of Europeans about and pile-up starts. Decide to work split - transmitting on 3.802 MHz and listening on 3.793 MHz. That's better, they're QRMing their own transmissions - not mine!. It's survival of the loudest, I'm afraid.

BEEF ISLAND - A CHRONICLE OF EVENTS - Contd.

Work quite a few G's, but no RSARS members. Decline request to work above 3·800 MHz for Stateside whilst path to Europe is so good. Raining now, with lots of static. QSY to 3·820 MHz and start pile-up around the W's and VE's. All call areas in the Log except KL7 and KH6. Friendly K7 offers to get both on tomorrow evening. Thank him and give him only 5 and 4. He doesn't sound impressed. It looks like being another early morning. At 0355 GMT G3NUR at 5 and 9 - what a surprise!! Log show's QRT at 0755 GMT. Sleep.

JANUARY 25th.

Up late. Temperature 85°F and clammy. Repair holes in roof and put bed out to dry. Erect slopers for 20/15/10 and Inverted Vees for 40 and 160. Trim and resonate. Put out call on 15 Metres. S-meter shows 40 db over 9 over most of band. Make enquiries. Find that local transmitter is 2 MHz. below and churning out 7 kW. Wish the Yaesu had a valve front end. Change to 20 Metres and put out a call. Back comes a weak VK3. Pile-up starts. Ask VE's to stand by and they do. Wish some Europeans were as disciplined. Ah! - G3UPY at 449. First on 20. This followed by G8NY with a QSP from Ray, G3EKL. No other G's about. Time for a swim. Water superb but surfeit of jelly-fish. Nasty things, keep well out of the way. Back on 80. Not good propagation to Europe. Oh Well!, have an early night. Log shows QRT at 0730 GMT. Wish I had a second operator.

JANUARY 26th.

On 15 Metres, VE3AX/RSARS 1339 - a new one for me, Operated mainly 160 and 40. Usual pile-ups. Nothing of particular interest.

JANUARY 27th.

15 Metres - G3NT at 5 and 5, couple of other G's but no RSARS members. 1320 GMT G4EMX at 5 and 5. Kit passes on local news. 1345 GMT - G3NOF and G2UX at 5 and 7. Nothing much on 20. Front end overload again. Back to 15 Metres. Usual 4 pages of W's, VE's and South American stations. Time for a swim and then back to 80 Metres. Conditions seem a bit better tonight. A DJ5 at S9 + 10 db. Listen for G's. Hear a weak GW?????. I wonder? It turns out to be GW3XHJ at 4 and 5. This looks promising. 2340 GMT G4FQO, G3ONU at 4 and 6, These low trapped dipoles are working well. G4EMX and G3NKO Ron strongest of the bunch at 5 and 7. Very pleased to hear the boys on 80 - am told that members will be looking for me. If conditions stay like this shouldn't be surprised to work G3DBU with his flea power. No more member contacts and Log shows QRT at 0420.

JANUARY 28th.

Sked time on 15. G4FKZ at 5 and 4. Work a few more G's and then up pops G3NVK at 5 and 6. Work plenty of Europeans but no more members until G3NKO with a good signal on 15 Metres this time. Swamped by local transmitter again. Tried 20 Metres - same problem. So time for another swim and then back to 80 Metres. Band in good shape and Log shows DJ0BU at 5 and 9, G3ADZ at 5 and 9, ZL2 at 5 and 9 and JA at 5 and 9.

JANUARY 29th.

Sked time on 15 Metres produced G4EMX, G3NVK, G3UAA but just could not copy G3WKM and G3UPY. Conditions changed rapidly and Log continues with just North American stations. 10 Metres in good shape but only to North and South America. Early night for a change.

JANUARY 30th.

Up early. A couple of G's on 80 at 0600 GMT, then worked KL7 and KH6 which pleased me. Checked in to Caribbean Net. Worked VK, ZL, YB0 and HS1. Time for 15 Metres. G3WMZ at 5 and 9 together with G3UPY, but no other members. Spent evening with VP2VBK. A pleasure operating on HF with a beam. 80 Metres much worse with Ed's dipole although contacted G8QO at 5 and 5. Back to my QTH. I'll just check 80 Metres before turning in. Lucky I did - G4RS in the shape of G4FBQ. Good old John - now I can claim the Basic Award. Log shows QRT at 0440.

BEEF ISLAND - A CHRONICLE OF EVENTS - Contd.

FEBRUARY 2nd.

Nothing much worked today. Band conditions very flat to Europe. Only G3WMZ of note in the Log. Later on, 80 produced G4BOS and the master himself GW3ASW at 0044 GMT, alas, at only 4 and 5.

FEBRUARY 3rd.

20 and 15 Metres very good. Really long skip but, again, no members until 1315 and then it was G4FKZ. Called by G2FIX (Ex Light Blue job) and gave him a report to maintain the good inter-service relations !!. Asked to keep ear open for G5YN, but must have missed him.

FEBRUARY 4th.

Not much activity today and no G's at all in the Log.

FEBRUARY 5th.

15 Metres produced G2FIX but no G5YN. 20 Metres produced lots of interesting stations including G2MI but no other members. In fact, G2MI was the last RSARS member worked.

FEBRUARY 6th/7th.

Nothing of note in the Log again. Last day of operation. Must pack up station tomorrow.

FEBRUARY 8th. , Alas, VP2VEH is now QRT. Station packed and ready to be freighted. Log analysis shows :

- 1,645 entries in the Log.
- 29 members worked on 80, 20 and 15 Metres.
- 14 on 80 Metres.
- 11 on 15 Metres.
- 5 on 20 Metres.

The low number on 20 Metres was due mainly to my inability to use this band to any extent, due to front-end overload.

VP2VEH received WAC, WAB and DXCC on 80 Metres, WAC, WAB on 15 Metres and WAC on 40 and 10 Metres. To all the members I worked, thanks for taking the time. To all the members I didn't work - I was there, where were you?? CERTA CITO! 73

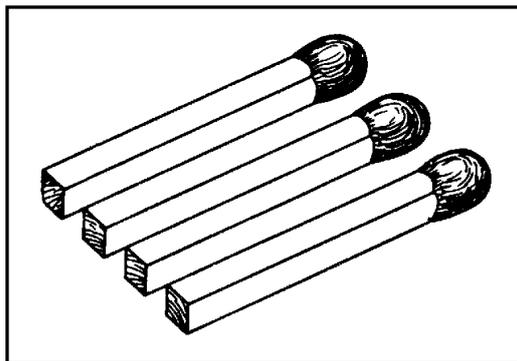
G4CZJ/VP2VEH/VP1BJ/VB9ABJ/DA2YJ.



DON'T BELIEVE ALL YOU SEE!.

(We "stole" the following from the UK FM SOUTHERN JOURNAL to whom we extend thanks and acknowledgements. If you have ever used your local (or, for that matter, any other) repeater, why not support your local Repeater Group with a donation or membership application.

Is this the outline of the new government's plan to combat militant Union activity?
It is guaranteed to produce 25% less strikes.



QRM? - or NOT QUITE RADIO.

G4FKJ/RSARS 1212.

(An American magazine devoted to Amateur Radio publications recently discussed "right justification", i.e. the lining up of the right hand side of a published piece similar to the normal left hand edge. We are taking advantage of this short article by Stan, to try it on you. Needless to say, without a rather expensive automatic-spacing typewriter the end product is neat - but is it readable?.. drop a line to the Editor saying what you think. -Ed.)

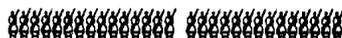
A friend tells me of an interesting happening last year, while recording the "Dawn Chorus" of the birds. He lost his sight about three years ago, and since then has amused himself, and others, by recordings of all kinds. In order to save getting out of bed in the early hours, he had put the mikes on extensions leads, of about twelve feet, and had placed these outside the bedroom window the night before. He awoke just before 5 a.m. BST and switched on his ITT stereo recorder. After a few minutes he thought he heard a faint signal of a man and woman singing. He switched off the recorder and went to the open window, thinking perhaps a neighbour had his radio playing, but all was quiet and he could hear nothing. Switching the recorder back on produced the voices again, followed by an announcer speaking quite clearly in German.

There was a certain amount of QSB but the signal built up to a good S-9, and was superimposed on the tape on the normal bird noises and country/sea noises of his QTH, including the church clock striking 5 a.m.

Intrigued by this phenomenon (which he had never heard before on any of his early morning recordings) my friend then disconnected the extension lead, and plugged the mikes straight into the recorder. No singing - No German announcer!! Replacing the extension lead immediately recorded singers, etc. He tried searching all bands of his radio to find the station direct, but could not find it. As neither of us were able to speak or translate German we are not able to identify the station and- thus possibly the wavelength.

One theory is that the extension lead and mikes are acting as a resonant circuit, and a transistor(s) as detector diodes, but we would be very interested to hear any explanation.

(If you have experienced similar recorder QRM and have the answer, please drop a line to Stan at S.J.H. Cotton Esq., G4FKJ/RSARS 1212, "Littlemanhay", Manhay, Helston, CORNWALL, TR13 0NJ. - Ed.)



FT-101-E RECEIVER MODIFICATIONS.

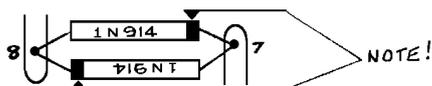
G4FKJ/RSARS 1212.

A contact in Washington state, Ken, WB7TMZ has sent me a modification for the YAESU FT-101-E Transceiver, which is very simple and is, I am assured, well worth doing as it greatly improves the performance of the receiver side. I do not possess an FT-101-E so cannot verify this.

The parts required are two diodes type 1N 914 and any two of the following Field Effect Transistors: Yaesu FET 3SK51, Motorola FET 3N201, Sylvania FET EGG222 or G.E. FET 4. Any two of these will do and there are probably cross-referenced U.K. types also available.

Installation 1 - HF Unit (PB 1181 B). Replace FET 3SK 4 OM with a new one of your choice, on the rear of the board, solder -, the two diodes as shown below between points 7 and 8.

Installation 2 - HF IF Unit (PB 1180 B). Replace receiver second mixer with a new FET of your choice.



I should be very interested to hear reports from any member who might try out this modification. (Address in article above).

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION.

LUCAS MARINE.

(The following article is reproduced by kind permission of Lucas Marine, Frimley Road, Camberley to whom we extend our sincere thanks. We also wish to thank L.W. SALAMAN, RSARS 1285 who made the arrangements for publication. - Ed.)

Editorial note - A considerable amount of work has gone into the suppression of interference in Marine installations which, of course, is understandable when one considers that safety of life at sea may well depend upon the correct reception of a message free from locally produced interference, Many of the general principles of Marine suppression can be applied to /M installations and it is felt that the serious /M amateur may well derive considerable benefit from the following article.

INTRODUCTION.

Reduction and control of electrical interference has been required since the first day of the radio transmitter and receiver but the problem has become intensified with the modern widespread use of sensitive electronic equipment.

Today's boat owner has available a wide range of electronic devices such as radio telephones, direction finding equipment, radar, depthfinder and the like and the effective use of this expensive and sensitive equipment renders it imperative that electrical interference be cut to a minimum. Much has been written about this varied and sometimes difficult subject, but radio interference problems still bedevil a large number of installations, and it is the purpose of this article to show that the correct use of Lucas Marine Suppression equipment will produce a successful solution to the normal radio interference problem.

RADIO INTERFERENCE.

Interference of the kind with which the boat owner is mainly concerned is the unwanted radio frequency energy generated by the vessel's electrical equipment and either picked up by the receiver aerial systems or radio, radar and directionfinding sets or conducted into the receiver by power lines. The fundamental difference between the signals sent by a transmitting station and those spontaneously generated is that the former convey intelligence while the latter signals do not. Unfortunately, the receiver cannot discriminate between intelligent signal and random noise if both possess common frequency and if the unwanted signal has a comparable strength to the required signal then the intelligent signal is completely buried in the random noise.

This unwanted radio frequency energy is generated in the first instance by abruptly varying or interrupting the current flowing in a conductor. Any current flowing in a conductor causes an electromagnetic field to exist around the conductor and if this field is varied by altering the current in the conductor then the lines of force of this field cut across the conductor and themselves generate differing voltages which are imposed on the original current flow. Additionally, part of the energy in the fluctuating field surrounding the conductor is radiated through the air, reducing eventually to near-zero as a result of the inverse square law, i.e. the attenuation is in direct inverse proportion to the square of the distance travelled. The abrupt variation or interruption of the current in a conductor occurs in the normal operation of almost all kinds of marine electrical equipment and some typical examples are the switching of generator fields, commutator action on dynamos and electric motors and pulse currents in ignition systems of marine petrol engines, switches and thermostats.

SOURCES OF RADIO INTERFERENCE.

Engine driven generators such as alternators and dynamos, together with their associated control boards, are generally assumed to be the source of most electrical interference, but it must be clearly understood that the sources are many and include motors, ignition systems, fluorescent lighting fittings, propeller shafts, convertors (both rotary and solid state), revolution counters and voltage and current regulators both of the vibrating contact type and solid state versions which are increasingly used today (See Fig. 1).

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd.

Another source of radio interference occurs when an abrupt variation in the contact resistance of structures with an electric field takes place. In marine craft this is usually confined to the rigging and loose metallic structures on the upper deck such as metal booms or loose metal rails. Interference caused in this way is usually the result of radiation from a different point of generation or from leads or conductors connected to, or running close to, a source of interference.

A certain level of misunderstanding has arisen in the comparison of relative noise levels produced by alternators and dynamos and by vibrating contact regulators as opposed to solid state types. An alternator's slip ring and brushes conduct field excitation current of some 2 - 5 Amperes and it is a wrong assumption to compare favourably the radio noise level of this arrangement with the dynamo commutator and brushes which are carrying the full output of the machine. It should be understood that the rectifying diodes which handle output current in the alternator, function as electrical one-way valves and provide very sharp cut-off of each phase as it alternates. This abrupt switching and the rapid voltage build-up of each phase produces as much radio frequency interference as the dynamo/brush combination.

The case for comparison of vibrating contact and solid state regulators may be similarly stated; that while vibrating contacts are often electrically very noisy it must be remembered that in this application the transistors are used as very efficient switching devices and can give rise to interference.

Serious radio interference can also be caused by the ignition system of marine petrol engines and this is not surprising if the magnitude of the oscillating current is considered. The interference radiation stems from the capacity component of the ignition spark. The secondary capacitance of an ignition system, including spark plug, cable, distributor, etc., is in the order of 50 - 100 picofarads. When a spark plug fires, the energy stored in this capacitance, which is probably charged to a voltage in the region of 10 kV (10,000 Volts), is discharged through the plug gap in the form of an oscillatory current lasting for less than one microsecond, but with a peak value which may reach 200 Amperes or more.

HOW INTERFERENCE IS PROPAGATED.

Radio frequency interference generated in the foregoing manner is introduced into the receiver in various ways - the two most important of which are conduction and radiation. The conducted component flows through the wiring system directly from the source to the receiver and may, in so doing, also produce radiation from the source and its associated wiring, in which case the wiring network effectively becomes a complex of aerials radiating the unwanted signals. Conducted interference can also be propagated by inductance or mutual coupling between cables or equipment in close proximity to each other. If the coupled conductor passes in close proximity to a receiver aerial then the unwanted interference is passed to the receiver even though the conductors are not electrically connected to each other. The radiated signal is transmitted through the intervening space, is picked up by various cables which may in turn act as aerials, and re-radiated by metal fittings, wire stays and the like, which then add to the sum total of radiated interference. Indeed, if the cabling is of the correct length, harmonics of particular frequency may be generated so that the unwanted interference is increased in magnitude.

HOW INTERFERENCE IS REDUCED.

Reduction of this unwanted radio interference to a tolerable level is achieved in three main ways - by screening or shielding, by filtering out the noisy component of the signal, and by electrically bonding the equipment and the screens. It must be clearly understood that using these techniques effectively minimises the problem of radio interference - to suppress all interference completely would be ruinously expensive and almost impossible to achieve.

Radio interference noise measurements are expressed in decibels (dB) and the meaning of this may be obscure to the average owner. Briefly it is a measure of the ratio between two powers

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd.

Expressed as a mathematical equation it is :

$$\text{Noise level (dB)} = 20 \log_{10} \frac{V_2}{V_1}$$

where V_1 = the standard of 1 microvolt per metre of aerial and V_2 is the interference level in microvolts. Figure 2 shows decibel equivalents in microvolts (a microvolt is one-millionth of a volt) and it can be seen that increases are logarithmic, i.e. 20 decibels equals 10 microvolts, 40 decibels equals 100 microvolts (10X increase) and 60 decibels equals 1,000 microvolts (100X increase). It follows therefore, that a reduction in noise level from 80 dB to 20 dB would mean reducing the noise level by a factor of 1,000 to 1 and these relative levels indicate not only the enormous reductions that are possible but also that complete suppression is unnecessary in most instances.

(To be continued).



SHEEPSKIN DEPARTMENT.

In this issue we offer THE EUROPEAN PREFIXES AWARD. Not an easy one perhaps, but how about trying it on, say, 80 and 40 only? Details are as follows:

The EU-PX-A is issued by The Diploma Interessens Gruppe, (DIG), Germany. The basic certificate is issued for contacts with 100 different European prefixes on or after January 1st 1969. There are no Band or Mode restrictions. Endorsement stickers are available for 150, 200, 250 and 300 prefixes. The Countries List for EU-PX-A is :

CT1 - CT2 - DL/DJ/DC/DK/DM - EA - EA6 - EI - F - FC - G - GC - GD - GI - GJ - GM - GM (Shetland Islands) - GU - GW - HA/HG - HB/4U1ITU - HB0 - I - IS - IT - JW - JW (Bear Island) - JX - LA/LB/LF - LX - LZ - M1/9A - OE - OH/OF/OG/OI - OH0 - OJ0 - OK - ON - OY - OZ - PA/PI - PX/C3 - SM/SK/SL - SP/3Z - SV - SV/Crete - SV/Rhodes - TA (European Part) - TF - UA/UV/UW/UZ1-6 - UB/UT/UY - UC - UN - UO - UP - UQ - UR - UA/Franz Josef Land - YO - YU/YT - ZA - ZB2 - 3A - 9H and all UK prefixes of the European part of the USSR. As well any special prefixes used in Europe will count. It is to be understood that where the same prefix is used in different DXCC or WAE countries, it counts "per country" for EU-PX-A, e.g. GM3 in Scotland and GM3 in The Shetlands equals 2 prefixes. No QSL cards are required, but a certified list signed by two other radio amateurs, together with the fee of DM 5.-- or equivalent IRCs (endorsement stickers = 3 IRCs) should be sent to :-

KARL HEINZ KÜMMERIE, DL2JB, 694 WEINHEIM, POSTFACH 23, WEST GERMANY.

The Award is also available to SWLs on the same basis.



STOP THE RUSSIAN



Your Editor recently had a couple of envelopes delivered with the logo shown on the left. The local postman, who surely believed that all amateurs are slightly eccentric, now, it is thought, is convinced that the amateur radio fraternity is trying to bring international politics into ornithology!!!. (However, it could only be a good thing if the "woodpecker" could "migrate". One RSARS member commented that from DX comments made it would appear that reception of the "woodpecker" is world-wide even when the bands are at a low ebb. Has someone discovered the secret of all-band, all-time, all-condition propagation???.).



(Being snippets of information that come to the notice of the Society by various means)

Congratulations to Mike, RSARS 1415, who is now G4ICC. Mike is certain that the G4RS Morse Training runs on 80 and 2 made all the difference to his passing the Morse Test. The Owl has it on good authority that it was as recently as February this year that Mike, then G8OXB, asked HQ for runs at 12 and 15 w.p.m. (Why not advertise the CW Runs from G4RS at your local Club and to friends. If our listening audience went up to around 5,000,000 rather than the 500 or so at present it would cost the Society no more to produce the runs and a lot more people could benefit. The 3-565 MHz transmissions at 1900 Clock Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays are very well received in the South of England. Why not give it a whirl - and let your friends know, too?).

Geoff Jessup, G3AMG, sends along his best wishes to all old friends who may have served with him in S.C.U. 3 in Buckinghamshire during WWII. If you knew Geoff in those days drop him a line at "Sun Valley", 4 Vicarage Lane, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2TP or give him a ring on 073-273-202. G3AMG can be heard on the HF Bands - "CW, of course".

On page 37 of the March 1979 "Mercury" we welcomed Francis Walter Ford, RSARS 1383, and it certainly is a small world. As a result of the introductory details Francis was able to make contact with his Radio Mechanic from way back in 1946 and, surprisingly, found that he only lived about 5 miles from RSARS 1383's QTH. The Owl reports that Francis now has a KW-204 and FRG-7, is taking the RAE in May and the Morse Test in September and hopes to be active by Xmas. We wish you well, OM.

If you travel by train, make sure you have a ticket!. ("Blimey, they are doing commercials for British Rail now!"). Not really, it is just to let members know that the man who comes along and asks to inspect the said ticket may well be G3RBQ/RSARS 0482. Peter has a problem with his rig at the moment and seeks advice from anyone who may be able to help. He has a FL DX 400 which recently suffered a flash-over on the neutralising capacitor since which time he has been unable to get the Driver tuning to tune to the low end of 80 Metres. Any suggestions, cures, etc., to Peter Huntsman, G3RBQ/RSARS 0482, 16 Crescent Avenue, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3DP. Peter lives in a valley and only has a 2-element beam at about 20 feet but has managed to contact VK, ZL, XE, PY, etc., and H44PT.

G3SL/RSARS 0365 writes to say that he has recently retired from the Civil Aviation Authority and moved to a new QTH at 40 Chichester Road, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3BP, which is a nice spot fairly high up, good for DX, and overlooking the Channel. He hopes to get a DX5V Vertical up before long although he is managing to work J's, VK's, etc., on an indoor antenna. During the coming Summer he also hopes to get on to 144 MHz. Living on the perimeter of Shorncliffe Army Camp, G3SL wonders if there are any RSARS types within, or, indeed, within the local area as he has yet to meet any local RSARS members. No stranger to Catterick, 'SL was there on a Radio Mechanic Course in 1941 and he wonders if any other members remember a Sgt Hubbard who was an Instructor there.

A note from Gordon, G3ZFZ/RSARS 0053, asks members to help if they have a circuit diagram, Manual, or any other information to help him "bring to life one maltreated DST-100". Please drop a line to; Gordon Gibson, G3ZFZ/RSARS 0053, 22 Thwaiteville, Arrowthwaite, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 9EL.

G8SC/RSARS 0564 writes to tender his resignation from RSARS. His other interests, which include his local RSGB Group, the local Radio Society, AMSAT, the local VHF/UHF Repeater Group and Raynet is taking up all available spare time and "I'm not getting any younger". His resignation, however, will not take effect until the end of 1979 and we hope to see G8SC many times before then.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

The Owl reports that DJ0 "British United", Tom, is still pursuing the RTTY aspect of the hobby and has now got the G3PLX VDU working 100%. He is now "upgrading" it to include "scrolling", etc. Tom also recently purchased a well-known keyboard kit and tuning unit and was not overjoyed with either!. He is, therefore, looking for a Tuning Unit if anyone has one to dispose of. Tom's main interest is in AFSK operation. If you share this common interest, or know where there is a TU or Keyboard for disposal, please drop a line to Tom Hicks, DJ0BU, SKC TV Workshop, B.F'.P.O. 30.

We welcome back to the fold G3RCO, Charles, who retains his old RSARS number 0563, as a result of a chance CW QSO with G3DPS. Charles was trying out a recently acquired HRO-MX which came his way new and unused. Charles is not too active at the moment as his main interest is acquiring and renovating old rigs. Welcome back, OM, and keep a drop of oil on that key!.

Bill Trenchard, G4EHU/RSARS 1324 sends along his sub and tells that he should be retiring from The Post Office next year. Bill looks back over his War years and wonders if he ever crossed paths with other RSARS members. He served at GSI (S) at Heliopolus as a Cipher Clerk under a Captain Hamilton followed by a spell at No.2 Wireless Company at Sarafand after which he went to Italy and Corsica with 155 Special Wireless Group. If you might have met Bill, drop a line to 34 Monmouth Street, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 6EJ.

G3JME/RSARS 0532 writes from 38 The Paddock, Boroughbridge Road, York, YO2 6AW to tell of his latest efforts in modifying a Cambridge ("as well as keeping nn eye on No.2 son machining steam engine parts on the lathe"). Mike hopes to have a new workshop very soon and perhaps we'll be hearing him on the bands. Both Mike and his two boys enjoyed their visit to the A.G.M. at Catterick last year.

In response to HQ's plea for certain publications, Alan Young, G3YBP/RSARS 0607 sent along a bundle which included "wanted" numbers. Alan has moved and is now at "Craigside", Mortehoe, Woolacombe, North Devon. He hopes to be back on the Nets shortly, albeit, QRP at first, followed by QRO when the new rig is ready.

Elsewhere we welcome Lieut. Col. Barron (Rtd), G3BWZ, who writes to say that he has recently retired from GCHQ and has set himself up with an FT-101-E to which he hopes to add a home-brew Linear on his return from a trip to Maseru, Lesotho. (Calling "CQ RSARS" on 3-565 MHz recently, G3DPS was answered by 7P8PG and a pleasant 5-7-9 each way QSO with Maseru took place).

From Laurie, G4BZP, a note on his previous service says "I was in National Service Intake which entered 7th Training Regiment at Vimy Lines on 4th November 1954 and 1st Training Regiment at Loos Lines about 5 weeks later. I wonder if that bunch of Radio Mechs turned out any Amateurs...". (Don't know about that particular intake, Laurie, but your Editor was in the 7th Training Regular Intake in April '54 and joined 1st Training Regiment around June 1954 until 1957. Wonder if you ever sat around that pile of potatoes in Loos Cookhouse when "Geronimo" was the Cook Sergeant? - Ed.).

A card from George, G2DHV, informs us that he now has an R216 and an R209 covering 1.5 - 150 MHz CW/AM/FM. He has rebuilt the PA on his Mercury Minimitter to 2 X TT21 running 150 Watts and the antenna is a 14/21/28 MHz Dipole. He is active most days mainly on 21 MHz CW from about 1500 to 1730 hours GMT mainly working W Novices for the USA-CA Award. George also mentions that he was not an OWL but a bird of a much rarer species - an OWLK being an Operator Wireless and Line (B II) and an Operator Wireless and Keyboard (A III).

The OWL has just pointed out that a last-minute entry for the Best 'Mercury' article does not change the overall position but does give G6XM ("Let's talk about Signal Reporting") another 2 points, and brings G3FK into the running with 2 points for his CW Monitor article and 2 points for his Multi-bander.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

A recent "flying" visit to New Zealand allowed the OWL to eavesdrop on RSARS 1018, ZL4IJ. He learnt many interesting facts. Tom has recently completed his 129th QSO with GM3GRX and is looking forward to many more. He also recently worked G2TA on SSB. It was suggested to Tom that 1800 GMT might be a good time for RSARS 'G' contacts but the OWL noticed (and Tom confirmed) that, at this time, the DX bands are as dead as the proverbial doornail. Tom suggests the best time is around our sunrise (or his sunset) times and he will be looking for contacts long-path (over South America). Try looking around 14-320 upwards. Whilst there, the OWL had a look around Invercargill and found that it was originally settled by Scottish people and this is indicated by the fact that there is still a trace of Scotland in the local accent. Even the city streets are named after Scottish rivers. Population around 50,000 which does not include the lizard-like Tuataras (up to eight feet long) which can be seen in Queen's Park. A beautiful area and a beautiful city. If you would like to know more, look for Tom on Twenty and in particular on Fridays. If you would like to arrange a sked drop a line to Tom, ZL4IJ, 166 Layard Street, Invercargill, South Island, New Zealand. (Note - skeds at week-ends are almost impossible due to QRM. Why not try a week-day morning before dashing off to the Salt-Mine?).

Whilst taking a break on the way back from N.Z., the OWL stopped off in Pietermaritzburg in Natal and was surprised to bump into Jim Foster, ZS5JF (old-timers will remember him as G2JF - Ed.). It transpired that Jim had moved in March this year and is now located at 2 Burton Place, New Scotland Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201, Natal, South Africa. Jim particularly asked the OWL to pass along his best regards to all pre and post War contacts on all bands including VHF and UHF.

The OWL sat on his favourite limb high up in a tree not a thousand miles from DL93NJ and ruminated. He mentally ran through the list of RSARS members (no computer for him!) and memories flooded back. He came to one particular call-sign - G3MAY. "Ah, Yes" he thought, "I well remember when Bert first became active. It was around October 1957 when he was living in the E17 district of London. He ran a CO-PA rig consisting of a 6V6 driving an 807 (Happy memories - Ed.), mainly on 40 Metres CW. The receiving section was an SX-24 and the antenna was a 60ft end-fed. Progress was made in the shape of a change to a surplus WS 36, which had been modified for 40 to 10 Metres on the HF bands.

A move to Tottenham came in the early part of 1959 and the shack was rigged up out in the garden. The decor was unusual - hardboard inner wall backed by copper gauze (doesn't bear thinking about at today's prices - Ed.) and backed by fibre-glass. At this time he was still active on CW but always willing to please the XYL (May, - note the call-sign suffix!) he ventured on to 'phone. At first it was Top Band only with a series-gate modulated transmitter. This was later replaced with a Heathkit DX-100U transmitter together with a rather unusual receiver - a Phillips BX-925-A. One of the unusual aspects of this RX was its motorised tuning!

For a while Bert ran a type 3X Teleprinter and had an interest in RTTY. He can still be heard on the Royal Signals Nets and is always happy to make new or old acquaintances". (I don't know where he gets all this information from, but he certainly knows a thing or two - Ed.).

During a recent visit "over the Border", the OWL dropped in on RSARS 0799, GM4AEA. Jock pointed out that a number of old railway signal masts are often available from British Rail, often for as little as £5 to £10. Also for members who are thinking of making a "sideswiper" key, an old Bushman type saw blade, can be used. Clamp it in a vice and knock the teeth off with a hammer and chisel. Buff smooth. As it is impossible to drill these blades, one can get the holes in the right places by taking it along to a local (electric) welders shop, and ask him to "dab" the blade with a welding rod at 99 to 100 Amps - and there are your holes. Jock also mentioned that a visit to agricultural sales is often worth while. Farmers and dealers often get rid of cabinets and desks, etc., and Jock has bought desks at such sales for as little as £1, although filing cabinets tend to make a bit more.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

Whilst looking over the Treasurer's shoulder late one evening, he also noticed that the following members have kindly sent along donations to Society funds, G2FAS, GM3TBP, G3YSZ, G3ZEE, GD4BEG, G4BOS, G4EAQ, G4FKZ and RSARS 1284 (He doesn't think he missed anyone. If he did he apologises). Council would like to thank all concerned for these generous actions.

Listening around one evening, the OWL learnt that Spike, G4AKQ, is now in Civvy Street and quite busy. He is with Cable and Wireless Airports Division and has recently spent two months in the Yemen. The trip interrupted a tower-mounting operation - the first 20ft having been rigged before leaving, with the remaining 10ft to go up on return. Spike should be back in G-land by the time this is read and he passes 73 to all.

Whilst passing 118 Pinewood Crescent, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., ST3 6HZ the OWL was surprised to see a face that should have been in Hong Kong. It turned out to be Vin Roberts who may be better known as VS6GY or RSARS 1204. Vin, or 'Jim' as he is known on the air, was on a brief visit to his UK QTH, but has been resident in Hong Kong since October 78. You may have met Jim under his UK call-sign - G3EGY. His main area of activity is 14, 21 and 28 MHz CW with an occasional SSB QSO on 28.450 - 28.520 thrown in. Living in a flat does not give room for extensive antennas but he has dipoles at the moment with the possibility of a 28 MHz "Bobtail" soon. The rig is an FT-101-E - being Jim's FIRST commercial rig!! VS6GY is active most Hong Kong evenings - 1000 to 1500 hrs GMT. On return to H.K. Jim will be at C/o O i/c C.S.O.S. Little Sai Wan, Hong Kong, B.F.P.O. 1.



TECH-TIP.

WALTER G3NXM/0136.

Most people know the old dodge of twisting two wires together to form a small capacitor, and I have always thought this a "hit-or-miss" method. Recently I discovered that the plastic insulated twin "Figure-of-eight" cable sold in Woolworths has a capacity of 1.2 pfd per inch. To form the capacitor, at one end cut back one wire about 1/4-inch and strip the other wire to form one connection. Do the same at the other end but to the opposite wire. The length of the twin portion makes the capacitor. All that is necessary to reduce the value is to cut back one (unstripped) end thereby reducing the length of the twin portion. If this type of capacitor is subjected to the full RF output of a linear stage its characteristics will alter, but it is perfectly satisfactory in the lower power stages. (The sample sent along by Walter had a twin portion of just about 2 inches and is just about 2.5 pfd - Ed.).

WANNA WORKA VE3?

Geoff. Barrett, VE3WP, 12 San Greco Drive, HAMILTON, Ontario, Canada, L9C 2B4 tells us that he can usually be found most Sunday mornings (his time) between 14.170 and 14.185 MHz start looking around 1600 hours GMT. Geoff will be pleased to have a R.S.A.R.S. QSO and looks forward to working many members.

RETURNING HOME.

R.L. Chapman, RSARS 0894, has spent the last few years in Prague but we hear that he should be back in the U.K. around 14th July this year and hopes that this will be for at least a three year period.

KEY-TRONICS.

In a letter to the Editor, a member writes "I am particularly impressed by the "Key-Tronics" articles; in having a regular feature devoted to modern Morse tg techniques "Mercury" fills a gap which is found in the Amateur Radio press in general" (Take a bow, Roy!).

HAVE YOU.....?

Sent those SAEs to G3YSK at the RSARS QSL Bureau? Notified HQ of change of address? Thought about a small article for "Mercury"? Mentioned RSARS when calling "CQ"?

***** AGAIN WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF
 WELCOMING A FEW NEW RECUITS, A FEW RE-
 ENLISTMENTS AND A FEW APPLICATIONS. WE
 TRUST THEIR STAY WITH US WILL BE A LONG AND HAPPY ONE.

RSARS 0688 - ERNEST VISTOR CHILTON, G2DJM, "HUNDRED WAY", MILL HILL, ALDRINGHAM LEISTON, SUFFOLK, IP16 4PZ. Ernest was with us before and we say "Welcome back". His application form shows "Details as before" but, unfortunately your Editor does not have these to hand at the moment. We do know, however, that G2DJM can be heard on 2 Metres (FM, SSB and CW) and on the HF Bands on SSB.

AFF 056 - MERCHANT TAYLORS SCHOOL, NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX, HA6 2HT. Applied for in the name of 2/Lt. Stanley T. Owen we welcome this well-known School to membership. No details given but, no doubt, we shall be hearing from them.

AFF 057 - ROYAL SIGNALS SECTION, HAVERSHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL C.C.F., NEAR MILNTHORPE, CUMBRIA, LN7 7EH. This time it is Corporal Ian Clinton Lee who applies on behalf of his Section. They are members of the C.C.F. National Net and the A.C.F. Inter District Radio Network and they operate under the call-sign '36B'. The Unit is under the supervision of 8th Signal Regiment at Catterick and, at present, the Section has 10 members, 6 Trainee and 4 Advanced and all 10 are able to operate on the A.C.F./C.C.F. Nets. Other member-interests include Shooting, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Royal Engineering, and, of course, Amateur Radio. 4 members are at present studying for the R.A.E. (we wish them the very best of luck). The Section is interested in maintaining old contacts on the A.C.F./C.C.F. Nets and making new ones.

AFF 058 - BRIGHTON, HOVE AND SUSSEX 6TH FORM COLLEGE C.C.F., (SIGNALS SECTION), DYKE ROAD, HOVE, EAST SUSSEX, BN3 6EG. Another re-enlistment to welcome. This affiliated membership has the call-sign '44' on the A.C.F./C.C.F. Nets on which they are active and on which they would like to meet more stations.

RSARS 1398 - S/SGT (Y of S) STEPHEN JOHN WALLS, G4HWN, PTARMIGAN TROOP, TRIALS SQUADRON, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS, BLANDFORD, DORSET. Stephen has been with the Corps for 15 years or so, starting with Junior Leaders Regiment from 1964 - 1966, then to 24th Signals Regiment, followed by a spell in Sharjah with 222 Signal Squadron from 1967 and 1968. Home again to 3 Div. HQ and Signal Regiment at Bulford for 3 years and it was on to 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. The years 1973 to 1975 were spent with 589 Rear Link Detachment when it was time to take the Yeoman of Signals Course at Blandford. This took up most of 1975 and on completion of the course it was back to 5 Div. again. A short QSY from Bulford to Blandford meant a tour with 30th Signal Regiment and, in 1978, an even shorter QSY saw G4HWN at the School of Signals. No amateur details given, but other interests include Walking and all sports.

RSARS 1399 - SGT. JAMES GERARD LAMB, G3GXW, ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA, LONDON, SW3 4SR. From a famous address we welcome Jim who has an impressive military history starting in 1932 when he was serving with the Indian Signal Training Centre at Jubbulpore in India. The next 2 years were spent with "A" Corps signals in Karachi before catching the boat for Blighty and joining 4th Divisional Signals at Canterbury in 1935. Tropical kit was again the order of the day in 1936 when Jim moved to 4th Div. Signal Company in Palestine and the Western Desert. When this tour was completed it was home again to Scarborough where he served with 5th Div. Signals, moving to Northern Ireland District Signals from 1937 until 1939. 1940 saw him at 3rd Holding Battalion at Huddersfield where he stayed until 1941 before moving to 1st Operators Training Battalion at Catterick. 1942 and 1945 saw G3GXW-to-be with Combined Operations at Inverary and then it was back to Catterick - this time to 3rd Trades Training Battalion. At this point Jim had filled the space allocated for "Service Details" and adds "Will that be enough?". Interesting, Jim, but we are sure that things did not stop there. Perhaps at a later date we shall hear

WELCOME - Contd.

what happened after 1945. G3GXW was obtained in 1949 and the present rig is an FT-101-E for the HF bands and an Icom IC-215 for 2 M. Other interests include Symphonic and Classical music and Bird-watching and recording.

RSARS 1400 - SIGNALMAN DAVID IAN MURRAY, PT-330, 1 SQUADRON, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT, VIMY BARRACKS, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, DL9 3PS. David started, as did many others, in the ranks of the Cadet Force whilst he was at Public School. He was S/Sgt in the Signals Section and operated on the A.C.F./C.C.F Nets as '50A'. In those days the rig was a C12 and an Eddystone receiver with a dipole cut for the Net frequency of 5-330 MHz. From the 19th September 1977 until 17 March 1978 he was with Leadership Troop (later 4 Troop) 11th Signal Regiment and then on with 8th Signal Regiment (DT 330) for Technical Training. Other interests include yachting when at home he crews on a 1/4 ton boat "with a fair measure of success") and photography ("strictly amateur"). His main radio interest is directed mainly towards listening on the bands.

RSARS 1401 - SIGNALMAN ANDREW DAVID KENNETH HOLMAN, "B" TROOP, 2 SQUADRON, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, DL9 4HH. Andrew has just started his Basic Radio Telegraphists Course (or had at the time of application) at 8th Signals. He has been a member of the Exeter Amateur Radio Society for 7 years (G4ARE). Prior to joining Royal Signals he was an Avionics Engineer. Interested in Beagling, Riding, Fox-hunting and Photography. (The Owl reports that Andrew may have taken the RAE in May this year. If so, we hope all went well).

RSARS 1402 - CORPORAL ANTHONY STANSFIELD HEATON, RA 230UU-1, 1 SQUADRON, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, DL9 3PS. Someone at Catterick has obviously been doing a good recruiting job for we again welcome a serving member. Anthony enlisted on 19th July 1973 and was posted to 3 Div. at Bulford on 7th April 1975. The next move was to B.A.O.R. on 14th February 1977 to join 1 Arty Bde (B.A.O.R.) and this was followed by nearly three months on a Clansman Course, after which it was back to B.A.O.R., this time to 3 Armoured Div in February 1978. In September of the same year came a move to Catterick for a course at 8th Signals. Main interests are Electronics, Sub Aqua, and Judo. Tony is a member of The British Sub Aqua Club.

RSARS 1403 - STEWART D. McNAUGHTON B.Sc., GM4FIW, THE HAINING, ORMISTON HALL, ORMISTON, EAST LOTHIAN, EH35 5NJ. If anyone remembers 271209 Captain S.D. McNaughton Royal Engineers, or 3057184 Corporal S.D. McNaughton Royal Signals, then you remember RSARS 1403. Prior to 1939 Stewart was a Private with the 4th/5th Royal Scots T.A. which was embodied on 1st September 1939. He then transferred to The Royal Artillery and was promoted L/Bdr Driver Group 'D', Class III. Promotion to Bdr. followed and he was then made War Substantive. On 10th October 1941 he was seconded to Royal Signals and attended training at Bradford Tech. This was followed by a Trade Test at Catterick when he became an Instrument Mechanic Group "A", Class III. Posting followed to Colwyn Bay Camp where he was i/c the Repair Shop. On 11th April 1942 he moved to O.T.S. and was discharged on 16th January 1943 as Corporal Officer Cadet for the purpose of being appointed 2/Lieut R.E. where he became O.C. 880 Independent Bridging Unit with the 14th Army where he was attached to, under command of or in support of various formations in Burma. among which were 7 Div., 17 Div., 4 Corps, 33 Corps and 2 Div. Part of this time was spent making a floating bridge across the Chindwin, Rafts and Assault Boats across the Irrawaddy, building a suspension bridge across the Pegu and various Bailey bridges across dry gaps. Stewart returned to the U.K. and prior to demob served with the Beach Group, Lothian and Borders and became a mine and explosives Officer with the same Unit. He returned to civvy street to study for his B.Sc. in Brewing (which had been cut short by the War) and was successful. The London Gazette of 19th September 1946 shows that GM4FIW was Mentioned in Despatches, and he was awarded the 1939 - 45 Star, the Burma Star, the Defence

WELCOME - Contd.

Medal, the Victory Medal and the T.A. Efficiency Medal. He is interested in all aspects of the Amateur Radio hobby and is presently to be found on the HF bands with an FT-101-E and a Mosley Mustang on a 60ft Versatower which also supports a half-wave dipole for 80 and a half-wave dipole for 160. Sometimes goes /Mobile. Interested in meeting "Any of the boys met along life's way".

RSARS 1404 - Under this number we welcome G4DOL, P.J. ATKINS. For various reasons 'DOL cannot publish his full details and we respect his wishes. He lives in the southern part of the country, is a member of RNARS and SERT and was first licensed in 1972 as G8GSO when he was 15 years old. He obtained G4DOL in 1974 and has had experience of all bands 160 to 70 cms. His main interest is in 2 Metres FM and SSB. When not on the air G4DOL likes Judo and Swimming.

RSARS 1405 - SIGNALMAN STEPHEN PAUL JONES, RT 37, 2 SQUADRON, BRAVO TROOP, 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE. Stephen doesn't mention too much on his application form except to say that he is "a 9-year man" and at present on a course in EKL-land. Other interests include Golf, Skiing and Football.



CW NETS.

DENNIS G3ADZ/0039.

Activity level on the LF CW Nets continues as previously reported, but not many weeks pass without our being able to welcome a new caller. During late Winter and Spring band conditions on 3.5 and 1.8 MHz have frequently been very poor during the evenings, and with Summer now having arrived (in theory, anyway!) we are suffering with much higher than normal QRN levels.

My one big disappointment is the almost total lack of response from our overseas members on the two previous appeals for information about their operating habits. Long periods of calling "CQ R.S.A.R.S." and listening on the published 14 and 21 MHz freqs all this at many and varied times throughout the weeks - has not resulted in one single R.S.A.R.S. QSO!. (Yes, I am getting out because I work other stations in VE, VK, etc., during the same periods without much problem). The special exceptions are to again to record thanks to ZL1AXM who is nearly always around at his agreed times and on his agreed frequencies, and for the terrific efforts made by 9G1KU (G4FZA) before his return to the U.K., by giving a good many people the chance of a now rare member QSO with Africa.

Nearer home, DJ0PC (now also back in the U.K. as G4IHS) supported the Nets most weeks with excellent signals on Top Band and RTTY. By the time you read these notes, I will have given up my job as CW Net Controller.

This is not through any loss of interest - rather the reverse, but I have given Council two factual reasons :-

- a) I believe that a change is a good thing after three years,
- b) For domestic reasons I can no longer guarantee regular Wednesday evenings, although I frequently hope to call into the Nets, at least for an hour or so.

Subject to endorsement by the A.G.M., Doug, G3KLX, has agreed to take over the 3.5 MHz Net, and Frank, G5BM, will be doing the same for 1.8 MHz - his initial promise being for 12 months from the 1st July 1979. G3XSR, G3XTL, GW3UDU and myself will be available from time to time to act on a relief basis. One final point to note. Our Top Band frequency of 1.837 MHz, although clear of coast stations according to the book, has been causing problems in the South. For that reason, you will now find the Net on 1.823 MHz + or -.

My thanks to all stations who have supported the CW venture and we can, at least, claim that interest has been resumed on a regular basis.

73 - Dennis, G3ADZ/0039.

SILENT KEY



It is again our sad duty to pass along news of the passing of several RSARS members. The President, Council and all members pass along their sympathies to all friends and relatives.



RON HOWELLS, G3POB, RSARS 1168 died on March 7th 1979 aged 55. He was an ex Regular Airman and was one of the select group who were members of all three Service Amateur Radio Societies. Since retiring from the R.A.F. he had lived at Thirsk and when his health allowed had joined the Catterick gang on their excursions to Leicester and, nearer home, their convocations at Nosterfield. At the Crematorium at York Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a bugler of the Royal Air Force. The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society was represented by G3NT, G3EJF and G3JZP. R.I.P.

RSARS 0096, Major (Rtd) W.D. CAPJON died in hospital on 21st February 1979, after a four month stay there. He suffered a stroke four years ago from which he was making a good recovery, but he began to go downhill in October last year and was admitted to hospital. For some years after his retirement he was one of a team of ex-Signals personnel who repaired and maintained Talking Book machines for the blind. We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Alice Capjon.

On February 7th 1979, RON BEAL died in hospital. Ron was RSARS 1105. Ron did a lot of work for the local Scout Amateur Radio Club and was keen on CW QSOs mostly on Top Band. To Laura, his wife, and to Iris, Janice and Duncan we offer our deepest sympathies.

As most members will have already heard, BERT MATHEWS G6QM, died on December 28th 1978 and was buried at Cheltenham on 4th January 1979. RSARS was represented at the funeral by John Harvey, G8KLO. We have lost a real Old-Timer.

Recently an application form was received from G3BWZ, whom many will remember as Lieut. Col. Tim Barron, ex Royal Signals. In a letter to HQ Tim remarked that since his retirement from GCHQ and after a 3 months Round-the-World trip he had envisaged settling down to radio and gardening (in that order!) and had recently obtained a FT-101-E with which he had hoped to join the RSARS Nets on his return from his last job - a visit to Maseru, the capital of Lesotho. He left for Lesotho on 1st March and unfortunately died after arrival in Africa. Tim had an extensive military and amateur history and was always helpful. In fact he was largely responsible for G3BWZ's ticket as Tim was qualified to certify Morse proficiency which he did for Alec. A memorial service was held for Tim on 12th May where RSARS was represented by G3BWZ. R.I.P.

On 11th March 1979, Geoffrey Cole MC, G4EMN passed away at the age of 62. He was well-known in the South and was a leading light with the (now) Bournemouth Radio Society as well as a keen worker for RAIBC. He was awarded the Military Cross whilst serving in Malaya. He was always keen to talk to fellow RSARS members and seldom passed through North Hampshire without calling the Editor on the local Repeater. In both social and amateur radio circles he will be sadly missed.

DON'T FORGET THE EDITOR IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS - ESPECIALLY IF THE LETTER INCLUDES AN ITEM OR TWO FOR "MERCURY". THE TREASURER IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS - ESPECIALLY IF THEIR SUBS ARE OVERDUE. THE GEN. SEC. IS ALWAYS HAPPY.

OSCILLATORS - Contd.

G3WZS/RSARS 0781.

THE COLPITTS OSCILLATOR.

a) (shown below) Shows the a.c. circuit of a Colpitts Oscillator. d.c. biasing is not shown. Positive feedback is derived by capacitive tapping of the tank. Although the mode is Common Base, by grounding the emitter or collector the circuit can be operated in Common Emitter or Collector mode. The Common Emitter version and its equivalent are shown in (b) and (c).

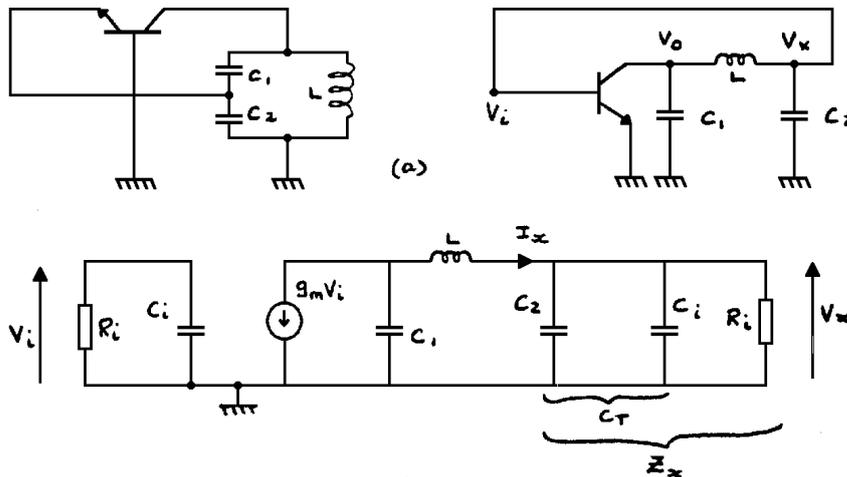
We will analyse (c) to determine conditions for which $V_x = V_i$, in which case loop can be closed. To do this we must load C2 with input resistance R_i and input capacitance C_i ,

$$\text{Let } C_t = C_1 // C_2 \text{ and } Z_x = C_t // R_i$$

$$V_x = I_x Z_x \quad \dots(1)$$

$$I_x = -g_m V_i \frac{1}{\frac{1}{j\omega C_1} + j\omega L + Z_x} \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\text{For oscillations } V_x = V_i \quad \dots(3)$$



Substituting for V_x from (1) and for V_i from (2), eq (3) becomes :

$$I_x Z_x = \frac{I_x \left[\frac{1}{j\omega C_1} + j\omega L + Z_x \right]}{-g_m \left[\frac{1}{j\omega C_1} \right]} \quad \dots(4)$$

which, after substitution of $Z_x = \frac{\left[\frac{1}{j\omega C_t} \right] R_i}{j\omega C_t + R_i}$ yields :

OSCILLATORS - Contd.

$$1 + g_m R_i - \omega^2 LC_1 + j(\omega C_1 R_i + \omega C_i R_i - \omega^3 LC_1 C_i R_i) = 0 \quad \dots(5)$$

Setting $I_{\text{in}} = 0$ yields:

$$\omega^2 LC_1 C_i R_i = \omega C_i R_i + \omega C_1 R_i \quad \text{or} \quad f_o = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2LC}}$$

$$\text{where } C = \frac{C_1 C_i}{C_1 + C_i}$$

Setting $R_e = 0$ yields:

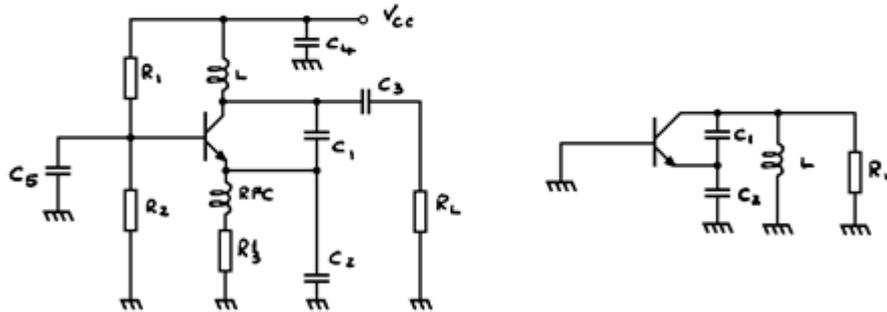
$$1 + g_m R_i = \omega^2 LC_1$$

$$\therefore 1 + g_m R_i = \frac{C_1 + C_i LC_1}{LC_1 C_i} = 1 + \frac{C_1}{C_i}$$

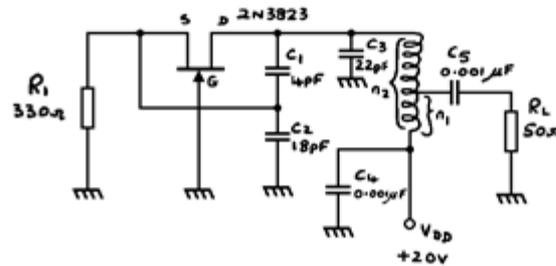
$$\therefore g_m R_i = \frac{C_1}{C_i}$$

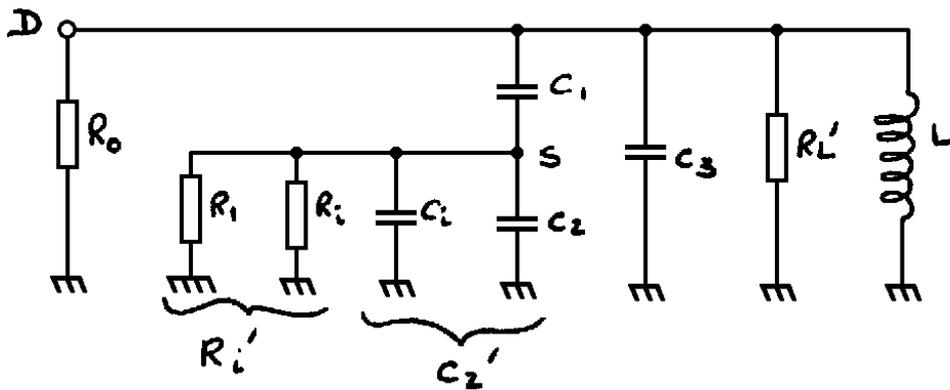
$$\therefore h_{ie} \cdot g_m R_i = \frac{C_1}{C_i}$$

A typical Colpitts Oscillator is shown below along with its equivalent circuit. C_5 ensures that the Base is a.c. grounded. The RFC is self-resonant at f_o , therefore displaying a high impedance and reducing loading C_2 from R_3 . R_L could be transformed to a more suitable value by tapping L .



A 100 MHz FET Colpitts Oscillator is shown below.





The operating point is set by V_{DD} and R_1 . R_L is the transformed value of R_L , i.e. $R_L' = R_L(n_2/n_1)^2$. R_0 is the FET output resistance. The bottom end of L is a.c. grounded through C_4 . L in conjunction with C_3 , C_1 , C_2 and C_i forms a parallel resonant circuit at 100 MHz. The junction of C_1 and C_2 is connected to the Source, therefore input resistance R_i , input capacitance C_i and R_1 all shunt, C_2 . C_i simply adds to C_2 yielding $C_2' = C_2 + C_i$. R_1 and R_i are also combined to give $R_i' + R_1/R_i$. The ratio of C_1 and C_2' determines the transformed value of R_i' when seen across the full tank circuit.

The relative values of C_1 and the total impedance from Source to ground, R_i'/C_2' determine β .
(To be continued. The Hartley Oscillator, Tunnel Diode Oscillators, etc.).



AWARDS AND CONTEST REPORT.

Black mark, Ray - my apologies to all the keen Contest members, I forgot to announce the outcome of the 1978 Top Band Contest. One actual entry was received from G3NVK with a claim for eight contacts. Well into November, a check log was received from G3XSN for the same Contest offering TEN contacts!! If only that log had been received earlier!. Ah well, for what it's worth, the 1978 Top Band Contest winner was G3NVK.

I am glad to report that the 1978/79 5-59 Contest produced more logs and the line-up is :-

	<u>G4DBR</u>		<u>G3NOB</u>	<u>G3PJB</u>	<u>G3NVK</u>	<u>G3UAA</u>
Section 1	11	22	21	23	20	
Section 2	14	15	22	21	26	
Section 5	24	27	27	33	32	
Section 4	10	14	11	20	20	
5 Stn Bonus	25	20	25	35	20	
4 Stn Bonus	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>80</u>	
	104	148	156	192	198	

So, from the list it can be seen that Alf, G3UAA, came out on top and is hereby declared the overall winner. I had no SWL claims; the leading 'phone member is G3NVK with 56 contacts and because Alf can only win once as "the overall winner" he is excluded from winning any additional prizes, although he leads the CW sections. Next in line is again Dick, G3NVK!!!. Perhaps I had better reappraise the rules!! (Watch the AGM Minutes elsewhere in this issue - Gen. Sec.).

Again, my thanks to other members who submitted logs, I have only listed those complete logs received but all receipts were very helpful and I am most grateful.

AWARDS AND CONTEST REPORT - Contd.

Alf's station was an FT-101-E using an indoor 40 Metre dipole in his loft together with an 80 Metre dipole which, for the December leg, was bent to fit the garden and for the January leg, half of which was in the loft space. It seems that Alf alters his antenna systems every week!. Dick's rig was a KW-2000-B (of the non-drift variety) driving a KW-600 Linear for the 'phone sections and barefoot for the umpty-iddy, umpty-iddy sections. For 40 Metres he used a half-sized G5RV antenna and on 80 Metres a straightforward dipole. Peter, G3PJB, used a KW-2000-B into a G5RV for all legs but it seemed as though his sea anchor appeared to be giving him trouble although he has since managed to stabilise his VFO.

Rita, the sweetest sounding signal on the band, was using a Trio TS-900 into a trapped dipole and John, G4DBR, used an FT-101-E into a W3DZZ trapped dipole.

One member, GM3VVM, who only submitted three logs but advised me of his total score of 117 points, used a Trio TS-515 into an end-fed indoor wire for 80, and an indoor 40 metre dipole. It really amazes me how Harry copes under these poor antenna conditions coupled with a very high noise level - Well tried, Harry, and better luck next season!.

The Le Touquet Contest last March produced three entries; there was one point between the winner, G3UAA and the runner-up, G3NVK, whilst Chas, G3XTL, was six points behind. (Please see AGM Minutes elsewhere in this issue - Gen. Sec.). The HF Anniversary Contest in May produced NOWT!!.

I have had a fair amount of movement on the Awards front and am very pleased to be able to congratulate the following members for successes up to 1st June 1979.

(a) SPECIAL AWARD (EUROPE)		- BRONZE CLASP
G3PJB		
(b) SPECIAL AWARD (EUROPE)		- No. 24 G4DBR
SPECIAL AWARD (EUROPE)		- No. 25 G3DBU
SPECIAL AWARD (EUROPE)		- No. 26 G3ADZ
(c) ANY MODE (EUROPE) - to 300 rung		G3PJB
ANY MODE (EUROPE) - to 300 rung		G3ADZ
ANY MODE (EUROPE) - to 100 rung		G3ADZ
(d) EUROPE CW - No. 28		G3DBU
EUROPE CW - No. 29		G3ADZ
(e) VHF AWARD - to 40 rung		G3EKL
VHF AWARD - to 15 rung		G3ADZ
(f) EUROPE QRP - to Top Rung (100)		G3BWX

Now the two ladders for this edition and this time I am listing the Annual QRP ladder together with the list of winners of the GW2OP Trophy.

<u>GW2OP TROPHY.</u>		<u>4 KW QRP TROPHY.</u>	
1970	G3DPS	1975	G3FMW
1971	G3EJF	1976	G3YSK
1972	G3HSE	1977	G3BWX
1973	G.TITCHMARSH	1978	G3BWX
1974	G3XTL		
1975	G8FG		
1976	G4CGS		
1977	G3VYZ		
1978	GW3ASW		

Don't forget the changes to the 5-59 Contest this year, a sheet is enclosed giving details. And the same sheet shows the planned contests available from 1980 onwards. The reverse side gives the latest Stores prices; I'm afraid the dreaded postage rate is on the move again!.

73, Ray, G3EKL.

MAIL BOX.

A long and interesting letter comes from FSO R/O Mr P.O.G. Buchanan, United Nations Box 490, Jerusalem, Israel. Pat is RSARS 1416 and writes :

"I have just become a member of RSARS - I had heard rumours over the years that such an organisation did actually exist!. I served in Royal Signals as a Special Operator (a Lineman with his brains kicked out, as one was described!) - usually by OWLs and their betters (!) the "Telegs". (The OWL is lodging a formal complaint regarding that last statement - Ed.), I was trained initially at 224 Signal Squadron, Garats Hey in 1960 and then departed to 9 Signal Regiment, Cyprus. From then on to Bahrain, Aden and eventually the Radfan. I returned to 224 Squadron in 1964 on a Class 1 Course and my last 18 months were spent with 13 Signal Regiment. Time in the Middle East was largely spent working with S.A.S. and the like and life was made easier by one of the nicest and most respected men I have ever known - our O.C. Major W.R.M. (Dunkers) Dunkley. Complete with "Indian Army" sidechops he did, as a subaltern, actually command a Heliograph Company in India prior to W.W.II. Wonder if that will jog the memory of some of the more 'senior' members? In Cyprus I held the Club call-sign ZC4SS (later 5B4SS) with a KW Vanguard and an AR-88. In Bahrain I held MP4BEE, being the only MP4 on CW at that time. At that time I ran a KWM-2 with a DX-100 and an SP-600 as "Stand-by". Again, the O.C. (previously mentioned) did everything possible to ensure we had something of personal interest to relax with. Recently mentioned in "Mercury" was The Society of Wireless Pioneers and I am a member, and I find it a very informative and interesting organisation. A newspaper is sent to members every quarter and it takes about a month to read!. If any of the 'seniors' remember Jerusalem, the radio room where I work is located in the old Government House. Sadly changed nowadays - except for the Arabs - they NEVER change!. Getting a call-sign here has become very difficult due to some unfortunate incidents (completely unconnected with radio) and as I am returning to the U.K. in November I am not going to get myself involved with the authorities and the Red Tape. The equipment here at the moment is a Yaesu FT-101-E, a Mosley Tri-Band beam at 60' (heading 300°), a Heathkit SB.-303 (anyone ever have trouble with Power Supply hum with this rig?), a Yaesu FRG-7 (for the BBC!) and a Drake SSR-1 (when I can get rid of the 'birdies' in the MHz VFO). Also have a 5-band trapped dipole. From my Army days I can remember two great 'hams', Staff Sergeant "Noddy" Milne of 224 Signal Squadron (1960) and WOI (Y of S) "Friedegg" Francis, 13 Signal Regiment (1965/6). I think Johnny Francis was licensed in Germany as well and was later commissioned and posted to Singapore. I regret I cannot remember their 'G' calls. I am interested in contacting ex-Signals 'hams' especially from my old "Department". Should anyone require signal reports on any band I'll be happy to oblige. I always remember one anecdote from Aden when keying a WS53 with a Vibroplex and the antenna relay couldn't cope - Outstation "Your dots are missing", Control "R dashes now - dots later". Hope to meet many members in the not too distant future. Regards to all. 73

Pat Buchanan, RSARS 1416.

Paul Scottorn, G3RFI/RSARS 0133 writes from 34 Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Sandy, Bedfordshire and sent along his vote for the best Mercury Article. He adds "Many other articles have, no doubt, required as much if not more effort and research as those I have voted for, but I have voted simply on the usefulness of the articles to me personally". (Thanks, Paul, that is exactly what we need. The "lucky" author gets a very nice, and useful Award and I get an indication of what members want in the journal).

Walter Borland, G3NXM/RSARS 0136, of 10 Ashfield Drive, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire. D17 6JA writes to give further info on the VK2ABQ antenna. "Since my note was published in "Mercury" for 03/79. I have come across a very informative article by Les Moxon, G6XN, in Ham Radio for March 1979. This article is a discourse on short beams and gives details of experiments carried out. culminating in a description of an experimental development from the VK2ABQ antenna.

MAIL BOX - Contd.

The VK2ABQ antenna is in the form of a square of 17ft per side with 24ft diagonals. G6XN used aluminium tubing for one of the diagonals turning it into the driven element. The other diagonal was constructed of tubing and doweled as in the original design. Wires, one for each band, were run from one end of the driven element to the appropriate position on the other diagonal and back to the other end of the driven element. These wires in the shape of a 'V' on one side of the driven element act as a director and on the other side as a reflector. The nett result was a three-band, three-element beam with a turning circle of 24ft diameter.

The driven element consists of the main aluminium tubing element plus two shorter rods about 7ft long in the centre, two 49-inch long rods at the ends, four capacitors and some loading wires. These are to obviate loading coils which G6XN considers "very lossy". Full details are given in the article and anyone contemplating experimenting with this antenna is strongly advised to get hold of a copy of Ham Radio for March 1979". (Thanks, Walter, and we look forward to further news from you on any experiments you may have carried out with this antenna. As "Mercury" is produced by a photo-copy process, don't worry about reproducing any diagrams, etc., that you mention).

News of a trip comes from Ron Plant, The Cottage, Milltown, Ashover, Chesterfield. Ron mentions "I fly into Boston, Mass., on November 17th 1979 to stay with K1WPS at Marblehead, Mass., for 4 days. I then fly on the 21st to Norfolk, Virginia, to stay three days with W4FRU at Virginia Beach, Virginia. Then on to Palm Beach, Florida, for 10 days with K4IPN and then a similar time with WA8PYL/M4 at Clearwater, Florida on the Gulf Coast north of St. Petersburg. I hope to have a reciprocal licence and operate SSB on 28-640 or 21-340 MHz on the hour 1400-1600 hours GMT daily. My call will be G5CP/W1 or G5CP/W4. All contacts will be acknowledged. Apart from W4FRU all the above stateside stations have visited my cottage in Derbyshire. 73. Ron".

"P.S. This will be my 35th visit to the U.S.A.". (Here is a chance to get another "Overseas" contact for those who need them. Have a good trip, Ron. Sorry this didn't appear in The Owl Report as you suggested - I got to the postman before him!).

From : Cedric Auty, GM4GPP, Valsgarth, Haraldswick, Shetland, ZE2 9EF. From this outpost of the R.S.A.R.S. North Cedric writes : "I have been interested in amateur radio for as long as I can remember, so, when called for National Service, I requested training as a Radio Mechanic. There were no vacancies in Royal Signals but I was informed that the Royal Armoured Corps had Regimental Technicians, so I enlisted in the Royal Dragoons in 1954. On arrival at Carlisle I was told that Royal Signals had taken over the Regimental posts so I was trained as a Driver/Signaller AFV. Much dismayed, I was committed for six years and had to make the best of it. I served 6 years in Germany employed as a Squadron Signals NCO and Wireless Instructor.

After demob and a brief taste of Civvy Street I re-enlisted in Royal Signals in December 1960. After some argument I was permitted to train as a Radio Technician (Light) and completed the T3/T2 extension before leaving Catterick. Postings were then : 255 Signal Squadron, Bahrain (61 - 63), 8th Signal Regiment as instructor on WS53 (64 - 65), 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and 2nd Battalion Scots Guards (65 - 68) - during which time I completed T1 training. Volunteered for Ace High Course and trained at Latina (Italy) with F. of S. Morris, then NATO FSS Stenigot (68 - 70), FSS Saxa Vord. (70 - 72), 9th Signal Regiment, Cyprus (72 - 74), 30th Signal Regiment (74 - demob in 76).

I am now employed as a part-time postman and Clerk to the local Community Council, which leaves me a fair amount of time for radio. We have a thriving ham community here with eleven licensed amateurs and a Club station which is not bad for a population of around eleven hundred souls on a tiny island in the wilds of the North Sea. There is no 2 Metre activity because of the terrain, so we are all active on HF. The rig at the moment is a Swan 750 transceiver, a Hy-Gain 18-AVT/WB and a very low inverted Vee For 80 Metres and I hope to expand to a tower and a 2-element Quad before the end of this year". . (Nice to hear from you. Cedric. I seem to remember we crossed paths at Blandford).

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From 102 West End Drive Orbiston, Bellshill, ML4 3BE, David Hamilton writes: "I am in a spot of bother. My AR-88 has broken down and I am wondering if anyone has a circuit diagram for same (David doesn't mention if it is a -LF or -D model. - Ed), as this is the first thing my amateur radio friends ask for to trace the fault. Previously, GM3EHI and GM3KNX found a fault after a lot of humping and searching (The set in a heavy one and with my handicap - I cannot use my left hand and arm - I could not have handled it on my own). Sadly, GM3EHI is now a Silent Key". (If anyone in the Bellshill region can help out it would certainly be appreciated. David is a disabled honorary member of RSARS and has even volunteered to forego "Mercury" in order to save the Society expense. Not necessary, David, and we certainly hope that someone locally will be able to help you get the AR-88 "on the road" again).

Bill Mead, G5YY, RSARS/0772, 82 Edward Avenue, Leicester, LE3 2PD sends along his sub. and apologises for a slight delay due he says "to the prevailing conditions on 28 MHz. In the early thirties it took me 3 years to obtain my WAC whereas now I am qualifying for this almost daily. On the question of QSOs, particularly on 28 MHz I should like to congratulate my good friend Bill, G6XM, for his excellent article on Signal Reporting. I think that most experienced operators will agree that the S-meters on our 'black boxes' appear to discriminate inversely as the received signal increases in frequency so much so that a signal that is Q5 and fully readable fails to register on the S-meter.

I recently had a QSO with a DX station on a Commonwealth island and the operator, who spoke perfect English, gave me a report of 5 and 0. I challenged this as I was interested in getting a QSL card for a new country on 28 MHz for the purposes of the Commonwealth DXCC Certificate. I suggested to the operator that the report that he had given me was not possible under the conditions of the International R-S-T Codes. He grudgingly agreed that R5 would not be compatible with S0 nor, for that matter, with S1, S2 or S3, but despite this fact he was adamant that the signal strength shown on the QSL card (and, presumably, on his log sheet) must be factual which was, in his view, the reading shown on the S-meter. I was left to ponder on how he arrived at the figure of R5. I have no doubt that when this matter gets to the ears of our friends in Japan we shall get yet another scale on our already crowded dual-purpose meter. In the past when we constructed our own equipment the S-meter was a luxury, desirable but not essential, since it in no way detracted from the performance of the receiver. The reports that we gave were based on experience and common-sense in conjunction with the International R-S-T Code. Have we lost the art of thinking for ourselves?

73 Bill G5YY.

An interesting historical note or two comes from A.E. Dines, a recently joined member, from 38 The Fairway, Balby, Leicestershire. "I am very keen on amateur radio and was first licensed in 1931 whilst stationed with 'B' Corps Signals at Rawalpindi when my call-sign was VU2BZ. My trade then was Operator Signals Class I and I was employed on fixed CW stations in Lahore, Kohat and Rawalpindi. I became interested in making RXs to receive the BBC and from there I caught the 'ham' bug. This resulted in a TX - a Tuned Grid - Tuned Plate, Buffer, P.A. with a 66ft dipole up 40ft. Activity was mainly on 20 Metres with about 25 Watts DC input. On return to the U.K. in 1935 I applied for a 'G' call and became G3AOH (Think this might have been G2AOH - Ed.). During WWII I served with 2 Div. Signals (Crossed Keys) and came out of Europe via Dunkirk. The rest of the war was spent with 14th Army in Burma. After the war I was back on the air as G3AOH from Surbiton in Surrey. I was studying hard for my Nursing Certificate which I finally obtained, but unfortunately allowed my ticket to lapse. When I applied for my license to be re-issued I was told that I would have to sit the exams again. So - no dice. I am now waiting for a hip operation and am practically house-bound. I still have the receiver and time on my hands so I spend a lot of time listening - but I would never be a pirate". (Reading a library book recently it was noted that the author who was a R.A.M.C. wife lived next door to a chap in Rawalpindi in the '30's who was a licensed amateur and built receivers to copy the BBC. I wonder?- Ed.)

MAIL BOX - Contd.

Steve Chisholm, VE4AI, 551 Bruce Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3J OW3 noted that one member had been through the old 150 OCTU routine. This must have been about 5 weeks before Steve as he was 129 Course which included Jack Lanes, Sugdon, Williamson, Hitchcock, Pierce and Ewings. If anyone knew Steve at this time drop a line to the QTH above. Steve is now instructing would-be operators up to 2nd Class Commercial (Marine) ticket. Steve is around 14.155 MHz at 1730 hours any Sunday with the Canadian Chapter of the Ex-G Club. He asks that members call in ON CW. He sends best.73 to Bob, G3DMK.

From South Africa, 396 Currie Road, Durban, to be exact comes an Aerogram from RSARS 0592, John Cardell. John tells that both he and his good lady are enjoying ham radio in South Africa and his only complaint is that his XYL, who is an ex-WREN is getting far more -RNARS contacts than John is getting RSARS ones. He also comments that he finds the number of contacts who consider South Africa as rare DX somewhat surprising. Durban now has 3 2-Metre repeaters and there is a lot of two-Metre activity to be found. The local Radio Club usually gets /MM visitors at most of their meetings. (Nice to hear from you John and hope that we can provide a few more RSARS contacts to improve that Inter-Service unbalance!).

Albert Cash, from 54B Frederick Street, Shoalwater Bay, Western Australia tells of tuning into a Net recently which was obviously ex-Service. Yes, you've guessed! - it was RNARS again, this time their newly formed Australian RNARS Net. (The OWL reports that there is no truth in the rumour that the last two reports indicate a RNARS World take-over bid!).

ZL4IJ, Tom Duerden of 166 Layard Street, Invercargill, New Zealand has a mention elsewhere, but another letter gives details of a book published in N.Z. and available in the U.K. Called "The World in my Ears" it is written by a blind radio listener, Arthur Cushen MBE. Arthur received his MBE for his work in passing on P.O.W. messages during WWII, Korea and Viet-Nam. On the amateur radio contact side look for Tom at 0615 hours GMT on Fridays 14.320 - 14.345 MHz or 0800 hours GMT weekdays around 14.125 MHz.

A long and very interesting letter comes from another recent "enlistment", i.e. Bill Eason, RSARS 1431/BRS 41534, 36 Potters Field, Harlow, Essex. CM17 9BZ whom some might have known as 3133377 Cpl. Eason. "Although not having trodden the paths of Catterick (fortunately, some say!) having served and trained in the Seaforth Highlanders, 7th Battalion as a Signaller from February 1940 until 1941, followed by a brief spell in Radar before being posted to Royal Signals S.C.U. (Special Communications Unit - Ed.). I'd like to convey my greetings to all members and my thanks for the Morse transmissions on 3.565 MHz. These have been invaluable in getting my speed back to around 15 w.p.m.

Signals here in Harlow on a FRG-7 are S9 using a 14 MHz dipole, but recent transmissions have had deep fading and high QRN levels - which is somewhat nostalgic since the last time I copied such signals was around VE Day near Berlin before closing the station and shepherding the convoy across Germany, along the Moselle and back to S.H.A.E.F. HQ at Versailles. My later service with S.E.A.C. HQ in Calcutta was off the key and spent building a high power station that was to be used to continue the network if "the Bomb" hadn't finished off the work. So, in these years my Code has become rusty during my 25 years with ITT as a Calibration Engineer, and, with retirement imminent, it's time I got a full call-sign instead of the pre-war AA license.

My posting to Intrepid's organisation linked with B.P. and under the command of Brigadier Gambier-Parry, meant that I worked in the workshops at Whaddon Hall building transmitters and receivers for the Resistance Groups - the now-famous "Suitcase" sets and other specialized equipment. Just before June 1944, I moved, as a Radio Mechanic with S.C.U.1, 21st Army Group HQ, to Southwick House in Hampshire, with a radio truck. In the first fifteen minutes after arrival I had made the acquaintance of a certain gentleman in a sweater and baggy corduroys who was standing in the doorway of a caravan - and I got a balling out for walking on the grass!. I had met my new Gov'nor "Monty". It was an incident that we were to joke over in later years.

MAIL BOX - Contd.

I discovered I was to be responsible for maintaining all the Ultra stations at the HQ's under 21st Army Groups' command. I landed at Arronanches with 21st A.G. Forward HQ just after D-day and entered Brussels with Monty on liberation day. From Brussels I was transferred to Bradley's 12 Army Group HQ in Luxembourg City and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge. In the manner of wars it was on a return trip to Luxembourg from Brussels by Jeep with my officer in a blinding snow storm that, on the Ardennes road that we passed through a column of tanks, who obligingly waved us through. It was only after passing that we noticed the black crosses on the tanks and got the hell out of it. Apparently, they thought that we were part of their Allied-uniformed Fifth Column!. So did the Yank patrols we met as we approached Luxembourg City and I never imagined the hole in the end of a Tommy gun was so large when pointed at the end of ones nose.

After the Battle of the Bulge I was based with the 9th U.S. Air Force HQ and was probably the only Royal Signals NCO to become an honorary member of the United States Air Force in France. Finally, under the command of General Patton I crossed the Rhine and onwards. Patton was a wily bird; of all the commanding Generals he used Ultra to the fullest. I could say that Patton's sweep across Germany and his victories were by the courtesy of a small group of Royal Signals personnel at his HQ; Enigma and Colossus at station X.B.P. gave him an up-to-the-minute breakdown of every enemy signal and he devoured these decoded groups like a hungry tiger.

After return to Versailles and a review by Eisenhower I was sent back home for two weeks leave then out, by troopship, to Delhi and Calcutta and, ultimately, demob. Another little (typically) Army story - On the way to Calcutta my small group of S.C.U. personnel got diverted into a Transit Camp and found ourselves inserted into a Long Range Penetration Group. After two weeks of playing silly devils and trying to fit 19 Sets to mules an irate War Office signal released us with profuse apologies all round - five days before we were due to get stuck into the jungle. Sometimes I still wear my bush hat with pride!!.

I expect that many members handled standard Army issue wireless sets, whereas the Ultra Net used 'ham' techniques - simple 6V6's driving 807's into an end-fed clothes line. This was a rope with a wire insert down the centre. As part of our job was to recover clandestine issued sets I got to know many French and Belgian "pianists" - and still count many as my friends. One was a French butcher who was turned over to the Gestapo many times. When we met him and had been duly wined and dined he asked us to search for his set. We did so without result (as the Gestapo had done before). He lifted his heavy wooden chopping block and there was our Whaddon-made set. It says much for our workmanship and those metal-clad American valves that he could have walloped that block for years without as much as a soldered joint coming adrift.

Although with our ham-type TX's we used in the trucks HRO's and AR-88's - which has always given me a high regard for these beautiful receivers. I once had to service an HRO, which had been recovered from a submarine after it had sunk. After a good wash out with soap and water and a slow dry in the oven all it needed was a re-calibration and it worked as good as new.

If R.S.A.R.S. records show any bods who were in S.C.U. or at Bletchley Park or war-time Government Communications HQ I would be grateful for any news. I am aware that Len Dewick and Bert Matthews who were with me at Whaddon Hall and later got call-signs are now silent Keys. I would, however, be grateful to be put in touch with any others based at Whaddon Hall or Hanslope, Bucks., during the war". (Members who served around the same time and places as Bill are asked to drop him a line at his Harlow address).

From Lezayne Lodge, Sulby, Isle of Man, Mike Farrant, GD4BEG tells us "I have not been at all active on the Nets recently as the SSB Net is on a band on which I have bad TVI - 80 Metres. The GPO say that they cannot cure the trouble!. Anyway, I have given up 'phone and the CW Nets are always at awkward times for me, unfortunately. However, I do come across some members during my normal operating times (abnormal to some people as they are normally in the early hours of the morning!)"

MAIL BOX - Contd.

Leaving the RTTY keyboard for a moment an interesting letter was penned by Robin Addie, G8LT, Spring Hill, Wappenham, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8ST. Robin writes : "I notice that the inside back cover of "Mercury" gives RTTY frequencies but not TIMES. (Will RTTY-type members please let RSARS know their main operating times please - Ed.) Three weeks ago the BBC (East only) put on a TV programme called "The Secret Listeners". It was introduced by Rene Cutforth and beautifully summed up by Hugh Trevor-Roper who is Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford. The BBC tell me that they hope to repeat it nationally and it would be of great interest to a lot of RSARS members many of whom had connections with R.S.S.. I supplied a number of photos taken around 1941/42 including people like the late Lieut. Col. Lord Sandhurst. Some of them the BBC used and had the kindness to 'ack' at the end. I suggest that members keep an eye open for this programme. Regarding "Mercury" - if recollections of older times are welcome, I could produce you some going back to the pre-war era when no-one had heard of TVI!!". (Such articles are always welcome, remember, G8PG's Measles, Morse and Mobilisation" came top of the list as the best "Mercury" Article. Robin also mentioned that he has a number of books for the RSARS Library when transport can be arranged. These are always welcome at HQ. Many thanks, Robin and we all hope that you are now well on the road to a full recovery).

A short note from Bob Templeman says that he has moved to 34 Jansel Square, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks., and that as he cannot make any contact with local amateurs he sees no point in continuing with the magazine. Not too sure if this constitutes a resignation or just a request for no more copies of "Mercury".

A short note from M.J. McGregor, RSARS 0949 of 54 Albion Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire accompanies his subs and tells us that he hails from the last century, being born in December 1895. However, although health reasons have kept him fairly inactive for a while he is now back on the air as GM3KNX and active on QRP using an HW-8 into a G5RV.



CAN YOU HELP?

The following item's appeared in a recent copy of The Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club's "Radial" (note the Clubs new name - Ed.).

K. Dunn, 56 Reeds Avenue East, Leasowe, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside, L46 1RQ is looking for a pair of headphones.

J. Frost of 1 Winant House, Simpsons Road, Poplar, London, E14 0AN would appreciate help with his RAE studies and text-book explanations.

John Roberts, 71 Gibbins Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6PQ is looking for a small dish antenna about 14 - 16" diameter.



RADCOMEX 79

Your Society was kindly invited by the RSGB to attend "RADCOMEX 1979". We took a - 20' x 10' Stand dead centre of the stage beneath the Grand Organ, overlooking the Great Hall.

The stand, shared with a Corps Recruiting team, was very impressive and clearly visible throughout the Exhibition. It was manned by G3NKO, G4DBF and G4EMX assisted by G3EKL and G3ONU. Ninety-odd members signed the Visitors Book and I am sure some slipped shyly by!! We also had an invasion of land-borne RNARS noisily led by G3JFF. We managed to repel boarders and remained "virgo intacta" - I think! We had hoped to hear something of RAFARS but they kept a very low profile indeed.

To those of you we met, our pleasure, and we hope you enjoyed yourselves at Alexandra Palace.

73 G3EKL

NFD - 1979

G4RS/P "had a go" over the weekend June 9/10. Luckily the weather was kind and Sunday produced a pleasant sunny afternoon, the refreshments were deliciously cool and the only thing missing were the dancing girls.

The site was organised during May and assembled on the Saturday afternoon whilst the aerial, after numerous discussions, was tested one evening before the dreaded weekend. It appeared to behave itself on all Bands. It was a Top Band dipole fed with 300 ohm ribbon 44ft long - no particular reason for the feeder length, it just went - fed through a G3EJF home built Z match. The rig was an FT 101E. All went reasonably smoothly and starting at 1300 hrs everything was up and ready to go by 1630 hrs. Kit, G4EMX, ably assisted by G2HNL, G3DMK (Bob held the mast steady!) G3EKL, G3IBB, G4CJU, G4DBY, G4EYP, G4HVA, G8FYJ, ex VP8QH and. SWL Jim Rixon put the bits and pieces together and then Gerry, G4CJU, took command leaving Kit to cope with the "inner man" and the generators. Gerry organised shift rosters and band plans and with half an hour to the off, all was peaceful and quiet. G3ASM, a new recruit to the Society, joined us and on the hour it all started. The duty shift started on 80 metres and it was a struggle but they persevered, slowly working their way through the serials. As darkness fell, Eighty came into its own and the scoring quickened. Then to Top Band and a good crop of double points were collected, The shift roster went by the board and the operating was covered by GASM, G3IBB and G4CJG, all ardent automatic paddler personalities, and a three hour stint on Sunday morning by G3KJX using an "up and downer". Logging for these excellent operators were G3HVA, G4DBY, G8FYJ (a wolf in sheeps clothing as far as the morse code is concerned), Clive alias VP8QH. Jim Rixon and for the last hour of the contest, Jean, G3JZP. As Sunday wore on and the sun rose up over the yard arm, Gerry - G4CJU, decided to retire to the refreshment tent and left IBB and ASM to fight between them as to who would last longest between leaks!! This turned out to be a good move as Gerry's potential as a cook hadn't been fully appreciated by yours truly.

During the afternoon a guest operator in G4CAX was collected from and delivered back to Catterick Military Hospital - Dave had a bash for an hour and helped to increase the score. We also had the pleasure of visits on site by Mrs HVA & "Jack Russell", G3NT and Margaret and G3ASM's XYL. We had quite a deal of trouble sorting out the logs, but a dogged determination backed by years of crosswords coupled with marking of many hundreds of trade test papers over the years produced the following results, which subject to scrutiny show a total of 401 contacts giving 1783 points.

<u>Band</u>	<u>Contacts</u>	<u>Points</u>
1-8	73	556
3-5	81	288
7	108	418
14	77	282
21	55	199
28	<u>7</u>	<u>40</u>
Totals:-	401	1783
	=====	=====

Not very good some of you will probably be saying but we enjoyed ourselves, aired G4RS and improved our results over 1975/6 and 7. Can't be all that bad can it!!? See you next year?

73 de G3EKL

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

CB - YET AGAIN

As many members will have seen, a symposium on "CONSUMER ELECTRONICS" to be held in July 1979 at a well known University, contained a section entitled "Special Integrated Devices for Citizen Band Radio" by a speaker of a well-known Electronics and Communications Company

MINUTES OF THE 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
HELD AT NORTH HALL CATTERICK GARRISON
ON 30 JUNE 1979

The Meeting opened at 1450 hours.

PRESENT:

Council

Life Honorary Vice President	Capt. (Retd) J. Cooper	G3DPS
Treasurer	Mr. R. Walmsley	G3IBB
Station Manager	Sgt. C.R. Hall	G4EMX
Non-Serving Members Rep.	Lt. Col. (Retd) D.A. Barry	G3ONU
Non-Serving Members Rep	Major (Retd) D. Haylock	G3ADZ
General Secretary)	Major R.A. Webb	G3EKL
Awards & Contests Manager)	Royal Signals	

Members

Membership No.	Callsign	Membership No.	Callsign	Membership No.	Callsign
454	G3UAA	467	GM3VVM	532	G3JME
131	G3FMW	120	G3JZP	566	G8DX
130	G3DBU	229	G2HNL	950	G3MAY
461	G2BQ	1390	Ex VP8QH	227	G3NKO
1393	G4HHD	435	G3VPM	803	G3NT
999	G8FYJ	1253	G8DFZ	1425	G4FUT
1365	GM3OPW	1343	G3HTB	053	G3ZFZ
1381	G4HVA	136	G3NXM	396	G3AEM
261	G3WKM	1407	Vic Tindall	1047	G4ATD
1424	G3IGY	1414	Alf Smales	1045	G4FLL
138	G3NVK	1101	Bill Donnelly	1274	G4FKZ
474	G3XFV	1399	G3GXW		

APOLOGIES were received from:

Council

The President	Brigadier N.A. Butler CBE	
G2EC	GW3ASW	G3YSK

Members

G5YN	G3FSN	G8LT	G4DBR	G4CJU	G3GEJ
G3EJF	G3DSS	G4FMJ	GW3XHJ	G3PHK	G3AFD
G2TT	G5BM	G3YSZ	G6MB	G3IFF	G8QO
G4GLL	G8NY	G4HIS	G8KOX	GW3CVY	G3KLX
G3XSN	G3JXL	G4DBY	G4EXV	G4EXH	

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting of our Society. If we are thinking that a far more auspicious person should be wearing the collar of office and addressing you now, you are quite correct. However our President has been detained on duty but has passed his apologies to the General Secretary. I would hasten to scotch the current rumour that I am in this position as a punishment for the grammatical errors like what has been writ in "Mercury". It is indeed a pleasure to see so many faces here today and to know that many of you have made a large personal effort to attend. I sincerely hope that you find enough petrol to get back home again.

I will not bore you at this stage by telling you how successful the Society has been during the past year. I will leave that to the various Council members (telling you how successful we have been - not boring you).

I will, however, mention that this success has been largely due, I feel, to two things - the support and tolerance of the rank and file membership and the hard work put in by your Council. I am sure that we can rely upon both to continue into the coming year.

Any Annual General Meeting is designed to conduct business so I think I should let battle commence or perhaps I should say proceedings continue. Before doing so I would just like to mention our Overseas members. We have a number of RSARS members situated throughout the world the majority of whom cannot attend an Annual General Meeting, as is the case with our home members who cannot make Catterick or any other venue. To such members I would say please do not feel out of it, have your say by mail or over the air - there are no "second class citizens" in RSARS.

During the coming meeting may I ask you to clearly state your call-sign or RSARS number before speaking - it helps the Gen. Sec. keep the record. The Owl tells me that he is using this meeting as homework towards his Army Certificate of Education Class I.

I will now call upon the General Secretary to read the list of apologies.
Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. (See previous page for apologies).

The Secretary proceeded with the President's address.

1. President's Address

I am extremely sorry that my commitments do not permit me to attend this AGM, more especially as it would have been my last as President of the Society. In my absence, I have asked Ray Webb to read out this statement to you all and for very good reasons, he is under orders not to vary from the script.

First of all, I must welcome you all to Catterick. It is a long journey for many of you but I hope that you will agree that the trip is well worthwhile and I am sure that most of you will revive happy memories of the past.

This has been a year of traumatic change for the Society as we knew it would be at the last year's meeting. Although there are still many problems, I am pleased to report that it has also been a successful year and I believe that we have a number of agreements which will guarantee a flourishing future for the Society.

At the last meeting of your Council we agreed changes in organisation which we considered would greatly strengthen the influence and position of RSARS in the serving Corps. These changes depend upon the approval of the Signals Officer-in-Chief and the officers involved and I am happy to be able to confirm that this has been obtained.

The detailed changes will be put before you for approval later in the Agenda but it might help if I summarise the key points now. Firstly, in future the ex officio President of the Society will be the Director of Telecommunications as it was in the past. In my view, this restores the proper degree of status to the RSARS in relation to the Corps. It is more than just a hobby, it is an activity technically and spiritually related to the main stream trades of Royal Signals.

In agreeing to this arrangement, I believe that the Signals Officer-in-Chief officially recognises the important standing of the Society within the Corps.

In the past the Director of Telecommunications was not able to devote sufficient time to the Society's day to day affairs and to regularly chair meetings. For this reason, we have also recommended the institution of the separate post of Chairman which is normal in most clubs and societies.

Although the Chairman will not be ex officio as such, it would clearly be of great advantage to the Society if the Commanding Officer of 8th Signal Regiment were the normal holder of the office. The manpower and bricks and mortar which keep us going are very much under his control

I am delighted to be able to inform you that Brigadier Gordon Oehlers has agreed to become President of the Society in October this year when he assumes the appointment of Director of Telecommunications and that Colonel Ian Shapter, Commanding Officer 8th Signal Regiment, has indicated his willingness to assume the duties of Chairman at a mutually agreed date following this meeting.

This, of course assumes your approval of our plans but I am sure that you will all see the value of them for the continuing success of the RSARS. It is a happy coincidence that the two officers involved in the introduction of these changes are both particularly suited to the posts by ability and temperament.

Much progress has been made in establishing the base station in Catterick and I hope that you will agree that it is now well set up. Sergeant Hall is doing a great job and his life is now a lot easier than it was thanks to tremendous co-operation from 8th Signal Regiment. Indeed I must mention the enormous debt that the Society owes to the unit which has given every support to our activities at a time when they were being asked to do more with less in every field.

It is very appropriate that the first Chairman of the Society will be, with your support, Colonel Ian Shapter whose personal support has been the key factor in the successful transplantation of RSARS from Blandford to Catterick.

The present accommodation arrangements are excellent and we are now giving priority to our plans for the future. In the long term, the building now occupied is due for demolition and we must identify a niche in the new structures. I am optimistic that this will be achieved to our satisfaction.

I have taken up quite enough of your time with this review of our progress and plans and I will confine my mention of the year's general activities to saying that they seem to have been uniformly successful as regularly reported by the Secretary. The Alexandra Palace Exhibition was particularly rewarding and much good was done for our standing and reputation.

I am sorry to have to inform you that Dennis, G3ADZ has requested to resign as Net Controller because of personal commitments. I am sure you will agree that we should record a vote of thanks to him for the dedication and responsibility that he has consistently shown in carrying out his duties.

Before I close I would also like to say a personal tribute to your Secretary, Ray Webb. He is of course a strong character who says what he thinks and is not necessarily renowned for his tact and delicate approach. I can only say that without his drive, his expertise, his determination and above all his complete dedication, regardless of personal time and convenience, to this Society, the Society would not exist in its present form.

I am personally indebted to him for his advice and support and anything that I may have contributed to our progress is entirely due to his tireless enthusiasm and prodding. Gentlemen, I hope to preside once more at your Council before I hand over my office to Brigadier Gordon Oehlers but it is time for me to say farewell to my last AGM as President.

I thank you for the privilege and pleasure of taking part in your affairs and you may depend on my continued support for the future.

Vy 73

Norman Butler

2. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record without dissent on a proposition by Member 130 G3DBU and seconded by Member 803 G3NT.

3. Financial Report - G3IBB

The Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 1979 was explained by the Treasurer.

A resume is shown below

1. GENERAL FUND

The overall value of the Society General Fund was: £5,122.81

This comprises:

a. Bank - Current Account	<u>£ 435.34</u>	
b. Building Society	£1843.76	
c. Cash in Hand	Nil	
d. Property - Valued at 31 March 1979	£1717.00	
e. Stocks held by Stores Manager	£1130.22	
f. Sundry Debtor	<u>£ 20.00</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>£5146.22</u>

LESS

Sundry Creditor	£ 23.51	
	<u>Total</u>	£5122.81

2. BUSINESS YEAR 1978/1979

INCOME

a. Subscriptions/Donations	£1288.15	
b. Sale of Stock (Profit)	£ 76.72	
c. Interest from Building Society	£ 72.28	
d. Grant from Corps Funds	<u>£ 642.00</u>	
e. Sale of Property	<u>£ 125.00</u>	
f. Special Events	<u>£ 31.43</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	£2235.58

EXPENDITURE

a. Headquarters Maintenance	<u>£ 112.78</u>	
b. Mercury Postage	<u>£ 541.24</u>	
c. Society Postage	£ 76.54	
d. Council Expenses	£ 61.81	
e. Project TIMOS	£ 30.00	
f. Awards	£ 23.90	
g. Property Depreciation	<u>£ 204.35</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	£1050.62

Balance of INCOME OVER EXPENITURE was £1184.96

A query regarding insurance cover for the HQ Station in the event of third party accidents was raised by Member 461 G2BQ.

He was assured that such cover existed and the Society had Public Liability indemnity up to the value of £250,000.

The premium payment had been included under "HQ Maintenance".

The report was accepted without dissent on a proposition from Member 435 G3VPM seconded by Member 1393 G4HHD.

4. The following Council Members reports were presented.

(a) General Secretary, Awards & Contest Manager's Report - G3EKL

Good afternoon everybody,

I am a little shattered by the President's kind remarks and I hope by now I've stopped blushing! And so to my report as your Secretary and Contests & Awards Manager. We have had a good year all in all. G4RS has flourished well under G4EMX, Kit Hall and has been regularly active as a Club station since last September. I hope those of you who have visited today were satisfied with what you saw. The HQ station is open as the local Catterick Garrison Amateur radio club two evenings a week, Tuesday and Thursday, for about three hours or so. The same evenings are used to radiate slow morse transmissions on 3560 KHz and 144.11 MHz starting at 1900 hrs Clock Time. These transmissions are made on behalf of the Radio Society of Great Britain and, from various reports, are well received up and down the country. They are following a set pattern across a three month time frame. The first week has morse at 3 WPM, the second week at 4 WPM and so on, up to week 13 at 15 WPM. Each transmission finishes with a three minute run at 12 WPM followed by a three minute run at 15 WPM so allowing any SWL's taking advantage of the transmissions to know (a) what the test speed sounds like and (b) what speed is being worked up to. The transmissions are made automatically through "TIMOS" the microprocessor converter and memory unit mentioned at the last AGM - "TIMOS" stands for "Tape In Morse Out System" according to your energetic Station Manager. The Society stores continue to turn over steadily and the overprinting problem of the QSL cards has been resolved. We now offer a good two to three week service subject only to postal delays. Most other items which have been stocked over the years are held i.e. log books, index cards, society badges, windscreen stickers, ties and notepaper and an up to date price list will be included in "Mercury" with this report. Please make use of our supplies, they are remarkably good value. Ron, G3NKO, is the store-keeper and I would like to thank him again most sincerely for his help during the past twelve months.

We have had forty nine applications for membership during the year all of which were accepted. Of that number fourteen were either Corps recruits or serving members. You may recall that last year I was trying to determine our exact strength - as at 1 June 79 we have 998 paid up members. To try and obtain greater Royal Signals participation all of the trainees passing through 8 Signal Regiment see a twenty minute film built up from the various BBC TV RSGB programmes which some of you may have seen over the last few months. This has only just commenced but I am confident of obtaining new young blood into the Society through this half hour or so approach.

I am glad to report that "MERCURY" has found its way into the post to you during the month indicated on the outside cover. This was the intention when Council agreed to drop to three copies a year. Jack Cooper has most capably edited since March of last year and we are all most grateful to him for his efforts. Our present subscription rate is adequate for the present and I see no need for any change for a while.

Contests & Awards - steady progress during the year, nothing for me to get excited about but some changes are in the offing as a result of my requests for advice on what you, the members, want. The agenda carries two Contest/Awards propositions so I'll say no more. Whatever the outcome a list of the Society Contests from this October forward will be in the July "MERCURY". G4RS took part in the HF NFD earlier this month and will be aired again in the 80 metre QRP Field Day in July.

(b) Station Manager's Report - G4EMX

G4EMX gave a resume of the HQ Station operations during the nine months of this year that it had been in use. He explained how well the slow morse transmissions were being received on both 80 metre and 2 Metres and read some of the letters of appreciation received by HQ from numerous parts of the country. G4RS/G3CIO now has 4 Metres CW and SSB capability and so it is able to operate on all bands from Top to Two.

Because of the slow morse transmissions mentioned by the Secretary it can be seen that it is difficult to get the HQ station on the air on Tuesday and Thursday evenings because of the time taken up by slow morse and then the more important nurturing of new young members to the Club.

A particular vote of thanks was made to Member 1381 G4HVA for his consistent help each club evening with the young members.

(c) Editor "MERCURY" Report - G3DPS

G3DPS reported that all appeared in order and that the journal was getting out on time to what appeared to be a very appreciative membership. He thanked all members who sent him material however long or short and requested that this continued because without such material the "MERCURY" couldn't survive. It was noted that the RNARS journal had reprinted two long articles seen in "MERCURY" during the last twelve months. The copy was so well done as to include the RSARS soldier (have a look at the break line between most MERCURY articles) and it was wondered whether the Senior service were short of man power and glad to accept "Pongoes" or just that their Editor couldn't produce bellbottoms on his typewriter!!

(d) QSL Bureau Manager's Report - G3YSK

The intake of QSL Cards has continued the previous years downward trend. In the last twelve months barely 2000 cards have been received from about 60 members. In the last fortnight only two packets received containing 25 cards and this is by no means unusual.

The almost total absence of cards from overseas members will be disappointing to those sweating for the awards requiring same.

All in all a year of little activity bureau wise and this will explain way members have a long wait between packets from the bureau.

Should you require me to send cards in less than the most economical weight, please say so, otherwise the delay in waiting for an envelope to become filled can be frustratingly slow.

Please remember that postal rates are due for an increase in the near future and envelopes resting with me may require additional postage.

(e) Non-Serving Members Representative and CW Nets Report - G3ADZ

G3ADZ spoke of the CW Nets and how grateful he had been for the members support. However, due to additional personal commitments, he would be unable to continue as the CW Net Controller for any longer. G5BM has kindly agreed to take over the Top Band net and G3KLX the Eighty metre net. The operating times would remain the same but please note a change in frequency for the Top Band net. It is shown on the inside rear cover of "Mercury".

(f) Non-Serving Members Representative - G3ONU

G3ONU said how pleased he was to be at the AGM and as he had received no letters of complaints or suggestions from non-serving members he could only assume that at least his half of the non-serving membership were entirely satisfied!!

(g) SSB Nets Report - GW3ASW/GW4CCF

GW3ASW/G4CCF apologised for his absence due to pressing domestic problems which had forced him to stay in the Royal Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, however his thoughts were with everybody at the AGM and he hoped that all would go well. The Eighty & Forty metre SSB nets have carried on during the last twelve months and he wished to thank the various members who had kindly taken control in his absence. Conditions had been difficult at times and he advised members to listen for the Sunday net on both the Eighty & Forty metre frequencies.

He particularly wished to thank the various members who had sent him good wishes during his recent bouts of illness and also those who had kindly dug into the past and unearthed a considerable amount of material in response to "How good is your Memory" - thank you most sincerely.

5. Amendment to Society Rules

Following on from comments made to the Meeting the Secretary requested that all members in possession of the 1977 print of Society Rules amend their copies as follows:

1. Para 12 - insert new sub Para c
"Chairman who will be the Commanding Officer of the Royal Signals unit tasked by the Signals Officer-in-Chief (Army) to be responsible for the HQ Station and staff."
2. Re-designate Para 12 sub para c to j to read d to k
3. Para 13, add after the "Chairman and"
4. Para 14 delete "President" insert "Chairman"
5. Para 15 delete "President" insert "Chairman"
6. Para 33 delete "President" insert "Chairman"

The amendments were accepted on a proposition from Member 227 G3NKO and Member 454 G3UAA.

6. Change of CW Net Controller

The request by G3ADZ to relinquish the post of CW Net Controller was agreed without dissent on a proposition from Member 461 G2BQ seconded by Member 454 G3UAA. The Chairman thanked G3ADZ most warmly for his strenuous efforts to get the CW Nets off the ground during the last three years and hoped that his personal commitments allowed him the occasional canter on the key on Wednesday evenings. Member 227 G3NKO requested that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes. This was agreed unanimously.

7. A proposition from Member 803 G3NT and seconded by Member 532 G3JME that "Society Rules para 8(a) and para 8(b) be changed from "production of QSL cards" to "log extracts" was put to the Meeting.

Various views were expressed such as Member 467 GM3VVM - "chasing cards is as interesting as having the QSO!!", Member 138 NVK - "surely killing the QSL card will kill the QSL card bureau", Member 53 G3ZFZ - "wont stopping the use of QSL cards reduce Society sales?"; Member 1390 Ex VP8QH "I made 20 RSARS contacts and have received 20 cards", Member 1393 ex VP1APG - "I made 26 RSARS contacts and only received 8 QSL's"; Member 227 G3NKO and Member 1253 G8DFZ - both in favour of keeping the QSL card requirement."

After about fifteen minutes discussion the proposition was put to the vote and unanimously rejected.

8. A proposition from Member 138 G3NVK and seconded by Member 261 G3WKM "That the AGM discuss whether or not the Society Contests are required and if so in what form and when" was put to the meeting.

The Awards and Contests Manager spoke on the support for the five contests over the last few years and also to the response received as the result of enquiries in "Mercury" of November 78 and March 79. This set off a lively discussion for about half an hour with such comments as "Too many contests already - they clutter the bands up every weekend as it is" from Member 136 G3NXM; "Try 5 periods for 559 Contest and count any four from the five" Member 454 G3UAA; "Cut back Society Contests to a total of three a year" from Member 227 G3NKO and "Keep them as they are" from Member 467 GM3VVM.

A vote was taken to determine whether the Society Contests were required or not and it was well in favour that they remain, but that there were too many!

Further discussion on the format of contests ensued and the outcome was heavily in favour of :

- (a) Dropping the Le Touquet Contest.
- (b) Dropping the HF Anniversary Contest.
- (c) Splitting the VHF Contest to two weekends, one in June and one in August. Should this not increase interest, to consider opening the contest to all amateurs.
- (d) Re-allocate the "Le Touquet" trophy, donated by Member 530 ZL1AXM, to the winner of the two CW sections of the 559 Contest.
- (e) Adjust the timings of the 559 Contest sections so as not to clash with Remembrance Day parades.

The Awards and Contests Manager thanked the meeting for their help and announced that the suggested changes would be effective from November 1979. A list of Society Contests would appear with the July 79 "MERCURY".

9. Under "Any Other Business" a record of appreciation was proposed by Member 261 G3WKM and seconded by Member 120 G3JZP warmly thanking all members involved with the running of the Society during the last twelve months.

10. Information that Member 913 GW3CVY was active on the HF bands running entirely from solar power was received with interest. Jay was using a FERRANTI "PHOTOVAIC" (I think) cell pattern which allows him to float charge two 12 volt car batteries in parallel during daylight hours under cloudy conditions and to charge at over an ampere when the sun was bright.

Member 532 G3JME from York said that he had knowledge of the solar power source referred to but that the amount of sun in the North of England latitudes offered at best two hundred days a year when charging would be possible with or without a clear sky. The Item was particularly expensive.

11. The Chairman thanked Member 138 G3NVK, Member 1365 GM3OPW and Member 90 G3DPS for the various raffle prizes which had been kindly donated. The raffle proceeds were £19:20 which were to be set against any AGM expenditure.

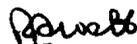
12. (a) The following awards were presented to members in attendance:

- i) G3UAA 559 Contest 78/79 - overall winner.
- ii) G3UAA Le Touquet 1979
- iii) GM3VVM M.O.P. 1978
- iv) G3DBU Europe Special No 26
- v) G3ADZ Europe Special No 27
- vi) G3NVK GW2OP Trophy 1978

(b) Additional awards for the past twelve months were won by:

- i) G8PG "Best Mercury article 1978"
- ii) G4DBR Europe Special No 25
- iii) G3PJB Europe Special Bronze
- iv) G3BWX 4KW QRP 1978

13. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1650 hours.



R A WEBB G3EKL

General Secretary

TAIL END CHARLIE

(being odds and bobs from Headquarters)

(a) First and foremost is an apology from me to those members who had in fact paid but who appeared as possible non-payers on the last page of the last "MERCURY". The subscriptions come in fast and furious at the beginning of the year and coupled with trying to marry up bank standing orders without adequate reference which appear on the February bank statement (and you can guess when that reaches HQ) you can well appreciate why I make the odd booboo!

(b) From HQ a "thank you" to Member 1407 Vic Tindall who attended the AGM and at the same time kindly donated two red leather bound volumes of "Wireless World".

(c) At the tail end of the AGM minutes is a reference to GW3CVY who is running on all the HF bands "solar powered". I stress HF bands because Jay has tried 2 metres and 70 centimetres but despite good antennas, he is unable to get out from his QTH. In consequence he has for disposal, almost brand new, the following arrays:-

10XY/2M 10 element crossed Yagi - 2 metre
12 XY/70 Cm 12 element Yagi - 70 cms

Best offer secures - please contact Jay on the HF bands or QTHR.

(d) Member 1204 - VS6GY is reasonably active and offers the following frequencies - due to shift work he can't offer operating times.

14005 - 14030; 21030 - 21050;
28050 - 2810 on CW and
28450 - 28520 on SSB.

Other active calls (not members) who cluster around 28450 are VS6FI, VS6EW, VS6EZ, VS6CW and VS6JG.

(e) Another "thank you" is in order for Joe GW3GHC Member 98 for his donation of Short Wave Magazines for 1950-1953. With more youngsters joining the Catterick Garrison A.R.C. these magazines offer useful browsing material.

(f) Should you note any error at all in your "MERCURY" address label please let me know so that I can correct it. If no postal code is shown, I would be grateful for that detail as it does help the Post Office quite considerably.

(g) There is a strong possibility that the AGM 1980 may be held at Alexandra Palace on the Saturday afternoon of the RSGB "RADCOMEX" - that is May 10th. I am unable to be certain as I write this on July 5th (my fortieth year carrying "Jimmy" on my head!!) Full details will be published in the March 1980 "MERCURY" regarding the next AGM.

(h) More about Member 620 G3BWX. The more observant of you will have noticed that Alec has won the 4KW QRP Award for 1978. In fact he also won it in 1977 and unless someone really "digit extractus" he'll be there again this year! Alec writes about his "secret weapon" as follows:-

"It has not improved much. My latest mod pre-amp (the Mk.V) is a compressor, with lots of AGC, and I've spent hours trying to tame its hysterics. The Mk. IV, which has some speech tailoring and ample gain, works, but does not seem to improve results much. I think I must be kidding myself about the power it consumes on DSB (flickering meters are a dodgy guide to power) though when I switch one valve to become a CW PA running 4 watts it does well enough. However, DSB is less important to me than CW, so I'll probably soldier on with it as it is. Obviously I can make contacts when conditions are reasonable".

So there we are - Alec has made many contacts and since writing the Awards & Contests notes early June he has reached the 100 rung on the QRP ladder - so his secret weapon really radiates!

(i) Please don't forget to amend your copy of Society rules. Should you require a new copy, drop me line.

(j) Information on the following Special Call-Signs have been received at the Editorial Offices of "Mercury" (the dining room at Beirnfels!) and is passed along to members knowing that they will support such ventures. The first comes from the Senior Service and concerns the HMS BELFAST IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM. The amateur radio station aboard HMS BELFAST moored in the Pool of London between Tower Bridge and London Bridge has been granted the use of the Special Call-Sign GB2RN for use when the ship is open to the public. This is 1100 hours to 1800 hours in the Summer and 1100 hours to 1630 hours in the Winter - all times British local time. This station is interested in establishing schedules with other Museum and Special Interest stations world-wide. Any stations requiring skeds please contact Don Walmsley, G3HZL, 153 Worples Road, ISLEWORTH, Middlesex, TW& 7HT, England. All Bands 1.8 to 28 Mhz are covered, CW or SSB and it is hoped to have RTTY operational in the near future. G4HMS will operate outside the stated hours.

(k) Member 089 Ted is operating as ZC4CZ until the end of Sept. '79.

(l) "Cyril, GW3ASW would like to thank all those who so generously responded to the request in the last "MERCURY" under the title on Page 23 of "HOW GOOD IS YOUR MEMORY?". All 'offerings' received to date have been passed on to the daughter of the late Col. (Glen) L.G. Phillips who many may recall as being the CSO Northern Command in 'Pindi' circa 40 odd years ago. Mrs. Hill has asked me to thank all those who have kindly responded to the request. For myself I also thank you all and will write individually as and when I can so do though I am sure there are many more 'snippets' to be found amongst the older members. Please lets have 'em. Even if like two members it/they come/came in RTTY 'tape' - thanks all!"

VALE

Last March I had the pleasure of receiving a letter enquiring about membership to the Society from G3BWZ Tim Barron. I say pleasure as Tim was an old friend of the Corps who knew the hobby and the art of communicating very well. He wrote saying that he had just retired, equipped his station with commercial gear for the first time and was looking forward to meeting the members on the nets when he returned from a holiday in ZS6.

Regrettably he became a Silent Key whilst out there.

The difficult task of sorting out another amateur's shack was willingly taken on by Member 620 G3BWX. It is no coincidence that the callsigns were consecutive as Alec had known Tim in the Corps.

Ron, G3NKO, kindly agreed to look after the items for sale and collected them on his way to the AGM. Any interested member should get in touch with Ron who can be found on the Eighty metre nets each Tuesday and Thursday evening or Sunday morning. If you wish to write instead his QTH is on the inside front cover of this "MERCURY".

The items in question, with tentative prices, are:-

YAESU FT 101 E complete and under warranty until Sept. '79.	£459
SWM Double meter SWR bridge - OK up to 150 MHz.	£ 10
KW Balun 50 ohm.	£ 10
LEADER ATU - Top Thru Ten with SWR bridge and dummy load.	£ 90
Mosley RV5 trapped vertical - 80 thru 10 still in manufacturers wrappings.	£ 55
YAESU 24 hour "World Wide" Clock.	£ 15

There are other items of a used, junk nature which G3NKO can offer over the air or telephone.

CONTESTS - new format starts this October with Top Band, 599 in November, December, January and February on different bands and timings etc - see next sheet.

73 Ray G3EKL

MEMBERSHIP CALLSIGN LIST AS AT 1 JUNE 1979

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
0726	3D6BP	0643	G2DHV	0493	G3AMR
		0688	G2DJM	0872	G3AQC
0171	9H1BB	0549	G2DPQ	0222	G3ARM
		0548	G2DPY	0704	G3AVH
0745	9M2DL	0322	G2DRT	0409	G3BA
		0972	G2DTD	0113	G3BEC
0625	DA1BS	1060	G2DUP	0556	G3BEZ
1107	DA1GU	0893	G2DX	0507	G3BG
0055	DA1WJ	0001	G2EC	0201	G3BGR
0225	DA2AH	0208	G2FAS	0476	G3BHC
0438	DA2YC	1134	G2FBU	0629	G3BHT
0536	DA2YS	0787	G2FCI	0402	G3BIC
1202	DA2ZA	0289	G2FRY	0381	G3BID
1281	DA4BB	0869	G2FWA	0998	G3BIN
0527	DJ0BU	0860	G2FWZ	1034	G3BIQ
0469	DJ0GU	0445	G2HDO	0081	G3BOE
0806	DJ0PC	0295	G2HKU	0281	G3BSW
0379	DL6AA	0512	G2HLL	0412	G3BTM
		0299	G2HNL	0684	G3BWV
0633	EI5BH	0339	G2IO	0620	G3BWX
		0729	G2KI	0513	G3BY
1162	F3WL	0961	G2MI	0639	G3BZO
		0492	G2NJ	0863	G3CLJ
1158	G2AIH	1063	G2PT	0681	G3COP
0835	G2AOK	0372	G2TA	0043	G3CRP
0132	G2ATM	0255	G2TN	0382	G3DAQ
0178	G2AYQ	0291	G2TT	0130	G3DBU
1391	G2AYY	0330	G2UV	0355	G3DCA
0820	G2AZW	0464	G2UZ	0325	G3DCZ
0995	G2BAR	0316	G2WQ	0377	G3DHB
0741	G2BIM	1277	G2YD	0029	G3DMK
0118	G2BPC	0472	G2YS	0185	G3DNF
0148	G2BPW	0447	G2ZA	0110	G3DOJ
0461	G2BQ	1125	G2ZT	1096	G3DOX
0374	G2BTO	0509	G2ZZ	0090	G3DPS
0874	G2BUC			0003	G3DSS
0970	G2BUJ	1382	G3AAV	0695	G3DWS
0991	G2BYM	0396	G3ABM	0197	G3DWW
0332	G2CAV	0143	G3ADS	1319	G3DZW
1078	G2CBH	0039	G3ADZ	0797	G3EAX
0287	G2CDN	0904	G3AEF	0473	G3EBH
1097	G2CKM	0320	G3AES	0176	G3EBO
0568	G2CKQ	0938	G3AFD	0323	G3EDW
0105	G2CPM	0035	G3AGO	0539	G3EFY
0666	G2CVV	0768	G3AHB	0186	G3EHZ
0270	G2CVY	0458	G3AJP	0004	G3EJF
0037	G2CX	0984	G3ALI	0046	G3EKL
0753	G2DFH	1304	G3AMG	0010	G3EMO

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
0638	G3ENG	0703	G3IMI	0801	G3MIZ
1180	G3EQF	0375	G3INA	0061	G3MJK
1064	G3ETJ	1259	G3INN	0011	G3MKR
0403	G3EUR	0551	G3IOI	1120	G3MSE
0511	G3EYD	0012	G3IRP	1053	G3MYX
1311	G3EZE	0571	G3IRR	0977	G3NAK
1384	G3EZZ	0997	G3JDJ	0429	G3NCZ
1188	G3FAA	1232	G3JFA	0240	G3NDJ
0603	G3FD	0845	G3JFE	1286	G3NEE
0127	G3FDU	0038	G3JFW	0007	G3NJM
0545	G3FK	0842	G3JHS	0227	G3NKO
0131	G3FMW	0582	G3JIL	0203	G3NKR
0387	G3FOP	0646	G3JIY	1032	G3NNS
0309	G3FPC	0139	G3JKO	0613	G3NOB
0231	G3FQN	0532	G3JME	0827	G3NOF
1395	G3FUJ	0776	G3JMO	0092	G3NOL
0307	G3FWD	0190	G3JVD	0428	G3NQT
1094	G3FWG	1366	G3JXL	0192	G3NQV
0655	G3FWR	0120	G3JZP	0803	G3NT
0360	G3GBS	0789	G3KAE	1427	G3NUB
0362	G3GEJ	0317	G3KBN	0140	G3NUI
1315	G3GGI	0482	G3KBQ	1069	G3NUR
0667	G3GHE	0648	G3KJW	0138	G3NVK
0554	G3GJH	0664	G3KKI	0282	G3NWQ
0239	G3GLQ	1021	G3KKQ	0136	G3NXM
1306	G3GMJ	0206	G3KLX	0091	G3NZY
0853	G3GUE	0635	G3KOJ	0021	G3OAZ
0457	G3GWD	0331	G3KPQ	0164	G3OEK
1399	G3GXW	0463	G3KWN	0700	G3OFB
1266	G3GYU	0094	G3KYU	0031	G3OFV
0016	G3HCM	0283	G3LAT	0645	G3OFW
F011	G3HKR	1091	G3LBT	0030	G3OHJ
0022	G3HN	0660	G3LCJ	1426	G3OKB
0614	G3HPJ	1171	G3LCW	0008	G3OKX
0312	G3HS	0359	G3LHJ	0335	G3OLE
1343	G3HTB	1203	G3LIT	0758	G3OLV
1421	G3HTI	0025	G3LMX	0112	G3OMH
0693	G3HW	0297	G3LNC	0277	G3OMT
0400	G3HWL	0483	G3LNS	0076	G3ONU
0257	G3HZP	0191	G3LOV	0573	G3OOD
0042	G3HZW	0694	G3LPS	0685	G3OOQ
0641	G3IAR	0494	G3LQC	0682	G3OPL
0653	G3IBB	0162	G3LXP	0106	G3ORY
1326	G3IDA	1124	G3LXX	0451	G3OTY
0024	G3IDG	0686	G3LZN	0189	G3OUF
1106	G3IFF	0594	G3LZR	0083	G3PC
0384	G3IFM	0950	G3MAY	0047	G3PCV
0565	G3IGI	0416	G3MBQ	1116	G3PCW
1424	G3IGY	1310	G3MHT	1081	G3PFJ

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
1130	G3PGI	0439	G3SRH	0434	G3VGN
0027	G3PGM	1234	G3ST	0224	G3VIR
0144	G3PHK	0779	G3STM	0442	G3VIS
0508	G3PJB	0338	G3SWO	0418	G3VIY
0529	G3PMC	0616	G3SYT	0210	G3VNN
0079	G3PNE	0183	G3SYW	0526	G3VNX
0085	G3PNF	0844	G3SZR	0898	G3VOO
0410	G3PNM	0268	G3TAN	0657	G3VPI
1353	G3PNP	0328	G3TKI	0435	G3VPM
0324	G3PNR	0562	G3TKX	0292	G3VSA
0534	G3POY	0604	G3TLV	0069	G3VSF
0066	G3PPD	0602	G3TSR	0852	G3VVE
0073	G3PPK	1187	G3TSZ	0567	G3VVH
0430	G3PQ	0353	G3TTH	0423	G3VWK
0070	G3PQF	0121	G3TUM	0805	G3VXE
0888	G3PRN	1356	G3TWX	F044	G3VXX
0672	G3PUW	1092	G3TXN	1372	G3VYF
1077	G3PY	0454	G3UAA	0173	G3VYZ
0569	G3PYN	0226	G3UCT	0233	G3VZP
0725	G3QI	0217	G3UDX	0243	G3WBA
0155	G3RAQ	0380	G3UEV	0124	G3WBL
0019	G3RAZ	1079	G3UHH	0584	G3WET
1020	G3RB	0422	G3UJW	0597	G3WGM
0180	G3RBS	0923	G3ULJ	1012	G3WJO
0157	G3RCJ	0054	G3UMI	0261	G3WKM
0563	G3RCO	0459	G3UNC	0103	G3WME
0707	G3RFC	0156	G3UOL	0506	G3WMZ
0133	G3RFI	0611	G3UPT	0521	G3WNI
0207	G3RFP	0294	G3UPY	0020	G3WQH
0135	G3RGF	0228	G3URG	1030	G3WRA
0894	G3RHN	0163	G3UTI	0540	G3WRY
0205	G3RII	0535	G3UTW	0308	G3WTJ
0588	G3RKN	0370	G3UTX	1072	G3WWX
1337	G3RMC	0449	G3UUA	0108	G3WXX
0580	G3RNL	0086	G3UUG	0902	G3WYN
0267	G3RNR	0329	G3UO	1242	G3WZA
0242	G3RPJ	1410	G3UVY	0361	G3WZQ
0619	G3RSV	0172	G3UXH	0781	G3WZS
0122	G3RUS	0875	G3UYM	0074	G3XBR
0293	G3RWF	0737	G3UZB	0194	G3XBU
0599	G3RYF	0755	G3UZD	0080	G3XCS
1169	G3SAJ	0411	G3UZL	1135	G3XDC
0198	G3SAX	0663	G3VA	1344	G3XED
0151	G3SGH	0543	G3VAN	0398	G3XFG
F005	G3SIG	0059	G3VBL	0474	G3XFV
0204	G3SIQ	0392	G3VDF	0336	G3XHA
0365	G3SL	0158	G3VDU	0915	G3XHX
1270	G3SMW	0909	G3VED	0669	G3XIP
0284	G3SQB	1362	G3VFB	1025	G3XLJ

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
1376	G3XON	0849	G4AEJ	0925	G4CRI
F001	G3XRE	0298	G4AGN	1050	G4CVL
0343	G3XSN	0889	G4AGR	1159	G4CVM
0498	G3XT	0628	G4AH	0966	G4CVY
0334	G3XTL	0413	G4AJI	0034	G4CWA
0519	G3XVO	1059	G4AKM	1227	G4CXN
0642	G3XWI	0884	G4AKN	0437	G4DBF
0747	G3XWS	0366	G4AKQ	0443	G4DBR
1230	G3XXO	0856	G4AMF	1175	G4DBV
0612	G3XZT	0891	G4ANH	0825	G4DCN
1325	G3YBG	0911	G4AOE	1046	G4DES
0607	G3YBP	1338	G4AOO	1189	G4DFW
0123	G3YBT	0348	G4ARB	1054	G4DFX
0386	G3YBO	0883	G4ASW/W2	0850	G4DHQ
0347	G3YCN	1047	G4ATD	1061	G4DIO
0351	G3YGW	0689	G4AUP	1111	G4DIR
0720	G3YHB	0541	G4AWI	1039	G4DJI
0661	G3YHL	0917	G4AWS	1051	G4DMS
0914	G3YIP	0912	G4AXS	1042	G4DNC
0610	G3YJU	0746	G4AYO	1404	G4DOL
0581	G3YMN	0202	G4AYZ	1233	G4DQB
0680	G3YMR	0547	G4BC	0490	G4DR
0572	G3YNB	0957	G4BIK	1139	G4DVD
0665	G3YNT	0152	G4BIZ	1089	G4DVH
0590	G3YOB	0303	G4BKQ	0967	G4DXM
0670	G3YOY	0259	G4BKU	1136	G4DZV
0771	G3YQQ	1312	G4BLG	1411	G4ECV
0312	G3YRT	0732	G4BMZ	0245	G4EDH
0593	G3YSD	0982	G4BNI	1176	G4EEC
0692	G3YSK	0306	G4BOS	1324	G4EHU
0179	G3YSZ	1037	G4BTR	1236	G4EJH
0731	G3YYD	0656	G4BU	1056	G4EJP
0818	G3YYU	0276	G4BUS	1225	G4EMT
0230	G3YZO	1127	G4BVC	0404	G4EMX
0440	G3ZCG	1131	G4BWV	1198	G4EMZ
0881	G3ZCV	0724	G4BXF	1300	G4ESA
0786	G3ZDB	0840	G4BXQ	1195	G4EUG
0738	G3ZDM	0986	G4BYJ	0937	G4EWI
0444	G3ZDP	0345	G4BZP	1217	G4EXH
0854	G3ZEE	0286	G4CAO	1209	G4EXV
0968	G3ZFN	0520	G4CBT	1389	G4EYP
0053	G3ZFZ	F054	G4CCF	1245	G4EZF
1147	G3ZGD	0264	G4CGS	1082	G4FBQ
0796	G3ZKD	0833	G4CGT	1295	G4FFU
0943	G3ZMT	1251	G4CJU	1254	G4FGX
1260	G3ZPO	0931	G4CMG	1301	G4FHG
0115	G3ZUM	1156	G4CMR	1247	G4FJJ
		0258	G4COQ	1212	G4FKJ
F010	G4ACF	1178	G4CPB	1274	G4FKZ

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
1045	G4FLL	0772	G5YY	1172	G8KLE
1330	G4FMJ			0095	G8KLO
1302	G4FPI	1288	G6CJ	1255	G8KOB
1294	G4FPW	0783	G6DV	1423	G8KOX
0942	G4FRQ	0552	G6HB	0589	G8KW
1425	G4FUT	0861	G6LC	1068	G8LBG
1263	G4FVD	0393	G6LL	0876	G8LDP
1261	G4FVR	0857	G6LV	1241	G8LEC
1347	G4FYQ	0601	G6MB	1208	G8LNM
0811	G4FZX	0064	G6RC	0290	G8LT
1321	G4GAQ	0491	G6TQ	1354	G8MDW
0056	G4GEA	0531	G6UC	1228	G8MZA
0782	G4GJS	0364	G6VQ	1369	G8NTJ
1345	G4GJX	0748	G6XM	1371	G8NWU
0941	G4GKE	0537	G6ZO	0486	G8NY
1351	G4GLH	0503	G6ZT	1385	G8OAJ
1292	G4GLL	0235	G6ZY	1370	G8OFZ
1355	G4GOE			1388	G8OPA
1271	G4GOZ	0215	G8AFT	1373	G8PBT
1278	G4GPG	1350	G8ALM	0026	G8PG
1367	G4GQV	0071	G8APT	0988	G8QO
1161	G4GS	0304	G8AQT	0890	G8QZ
1393	G4HHD	0525	G8ARA	1346	G8RDI
1184	G4HLC	0522	G8BBP	0564	G8SC
1398	G4HNW	0632	G8BKU	1392	G8SCF
0609	G4HOL	0350	G8BOF	1434	G8SII
0859	G4HPJ	1073	G8BQX	1329	G8TC
1433	G4HWQ	0301	G8BRU	0533	G8TN
1420	G4HYA	0357	G8CDQ	0974	G8TO
1415	G4ICC	0677	G8CFM		
0017	G4JT	0302	G8DEU	F014	GB3STD
0489	G4PX	1253	G8DFZ		
0596	G4QX	1026	G8DIB	0775	GD4BEG
0009	G4RB	F019	G8DIB		
		0566	G8DK	0501	GI2BZV
0956	G5BM	0420	G8EFJ	0005	GI2DZG
1282	G5BZ	0838	G8FG		
0247	G5GH	0999	G8FYJ	0199	GI3ALT
0716	G5HB	0165	G8GDD	0014	GI3HXV
0862	G5LZ	1328	G8GUA	0082	GI3IWD
0947	G5NF	1038	G8GVS	0544	GI3JEX
0795	G5RV	0901	G8GXE	0671	GI3KVD
0182	G5TV	1308	G8GYG	0953	GI3NQH
0052	G5VO	1267	G8HUN	0778	GI3ZKT
1293	G5WG	1323	G8HXG		
0072	G5XB	1360	G8JMP	1153	GI4CUV
0062	G5XL	0858	G8JTT	1090	GI4DQO
0209	G5YM	0780	G8JU	1357	GI4FZC
0040	G5YN	1197	G8KFR		

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
0288	GI5DX	0150	GM4DAE		
		1185	GM4EHO	0702	ON8GB
0058	GI8AYZ	1403	GM4FIW	1022	ON8GM
1331	GI8NHW	1193	GM4FOZ	0219	ON8IS
		1244	GM4GJG	0068	ON8MM
0793	GJ4BSL	0662	GM4GK		
		1235	GM4GPP	1142	PA3AHU
0687	GM2CQI				
		0125	GM6RI	0595	PY2PA
0583	GM3AVA				
0102	GM3AWF	0705	GM8FVC	1339	VE3AX
0369	GM3FIZ	0500	GM8SQ	0674	VE3CDM
0006	GM3GFO			0319	VE3DDR
1214	GM3GRX	0987	GU5TU	0196	VE3GFX
0419	GM3HGA			0558	VE3GNM
0886	GM3HXF	0559	GW3ASW	1093	VE3IVM
0107	GM3IAA	0496	GW3AX	1058	VE3WP
0471	GM3JIG	0326	GW3BGP		
0517	GM3JOA	0913	GW3CVY	0415	VE4AI
0087	GM3KLA	0098	GW3GHC		
0949	GM3KNX	0452	GW3LAD	0882	VK2AND
1145	GM3LQH	0262	GW3MSY	0405	VK2BBB
1432	GM3LTD	0363	GW3OKM	0733	VK2BEL
0089	GM3LWS	0542	GW3QN	1422	VK2NLE
0785	GM3LYI	0251	GW3RGE	0864	VK2OK
0128	GM3OJC	0285	GW3SVY	0756	VK2OV
1365	GM3OPW	0214	GW3TMH	0168	VK2PF
1140	GM3OYV	0378	GW3UDU		
0822	GM3PFQ	0871	GW3VBP	1190	VK3BBT
0167	GM3PFU	0060	GW3WEQ	0097	VK3ET
0051	GM3PIP	0232	GW3XHJ		
0327	GM3RPM	0717	GW3YPF	0794	VK4IV
0193	GM3SAE	1182	GW3ZEY		
1173	GM3SBB			1418	VK5NKP
0333	GM3SKZ	1285	GW4ALJ	1417	VK5YQ
0812	GM3TBP	0906	GW4ANK		
0337	GM3TDS	0605	GW4BTW	0575	VK6JR
0453	GM3VIO	0424	GW4BZQ	0792	VK6MK
0887	GM3VJW	0709	GW4ELI	0843	VK6PG
0467	GM3VVM	0848	GW4FLZ	0606	VK6WO
0873	GM3WFJ	1262	GW4HGA	0390	VK6ZCV
0547	GM3WHS				
0065	GM3XMZ	0762	GW8GAB	0955	VK7CCC
0273	GM3YQK				
		0698	HB9AMS	0877	VK9EM
0799	GM4AEA				
0175	GM4AGS	0099	HZ1KE	0241	VP2AZB
0907	GM4BAF				
0742	GM4CKP	1027	K9CUA	0767	VU2MD

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
		1317	BRS38746	0275	NL
0817	W1GMC	1336	BRS38833	0279	NL
		1381	BRS39191	0299	NL
0676	W2UN	1322	BRS40073	0305	NL
		1431	BRS41534	0313	NL
0649	W3RX			0314	NL
		1284	G-15543	0315	NL
0406	W6UVW			0318	NL
		0002	NL	0349	NL
0807	W7KOS	0013	NL	0354	NL
		0028	NL	0358	NL
0743	W8WS	0032	NL	0368	NL
		0033	NL	0373	NL
0557	WA6CEB	0036	NL	0391	NL
		0041	NL	0399	NL
0234	WA8PCT	0044	NL	0408	NL
0576	WA8TGA	0048	NL	0455	NL
		0049	NL	0462	NL
0470	ZC4JG	0050	NL	0465	NL
		0057	NL	0477	NL
0523	ZL1ACL	0067	NL	0481	NL
1256	ZL1AGJ	0075	NL	0487	NL
0673	ZL1AUI	0078	NL	0504	NL
0530	ZL1AXM	0088	NL	0524	NL
1375	ZL1BMG	0111	NL	0570	NL
1043	ZL1BMW	0114	NL	0586	NL
		0117	NL	0644	NL
0696	ZL2BBT	0126	NL	0647	NL
		0129	NL	0651	NL
1017	ZL3VJ	0142	NL	0659	NL
		0145	NL	0668	NL
1018	ZL4IJ	0149	NL	0675	NL
1361	ZL4LP	0153	NL	0708	NL
		0154	NL	0712	NL
0831	ZS1KZ	0159	NL	0722	NL
		0166	NL	0736	NL
0754	ZS3MS	0170	NL	0744	NL
		0174	NL	0759	NL
0592	ZS5CS	0181	NL	0761	NL
0134	ZS5JF	0188	NL	0766	NL
		0212	NL	0770	NL
0250	ZS6BMU	0213	NL	0774	NL
		0218	NL	0846	NL
1428	A-8991	0238	NL	0855	NL
		0246	NL	0879	NL
C023	BRS25885	0249	NL	0880	NL
1318	BRS27929	0253	NL	0910	NL
1377	BRS36591	0254	NL	0918	NL
1249	BRS37534	0263	NL	0919	NL

MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN	MEMNO	CALLSIGN
0924	NL	1397	NL	F016	NL
0926	NL	1400	NL	F053	NL
0927	NL	1401	NL	F055	NL
0958	NL	1402	NL	F057	NL
1006	NL	1405	NL		
1011	NL	1406	NL	0077	S-KEY
1062	NL	1407	NL	0096	S-KEY
1071	NL	1408	NL	0137	S-KEY
1087	NL	1409	NL	0160	S-KEY
1098	NL	1412	NL	0265	S-KEY
1099	NL	1413	NL	0300	S-KEY
1101	NL	1414	NL	0310	S-KEY
1132	NL	1416	NL	0352	S-KEY
1141	NL	1430	NL	0383	S-KEY
1148	NL			0395	S-KEY
1151	NL	C001	NL	0397	S-KEY
1152	NL	C002	NL	0480	S-KEY
1165	NL	C003	NL	0502	S-KEY
1192	NL	C005	NL	0510	S-KEY
1201	NL	C006	NL	0577	S-KEY
1205	NL	C007	NL	0624	S-KEY
1211	NL	C008	NL	0634	S-KEY
1220	NL	C009	NL	0654	S-KEY
1238	NL	C010	NL	0683	S-KEY
1273	NL	C011	NL	0760	S-KEY
1280	NL	C012	NL	0791	S-KEY
1283	NL	C013	NL	0814	S-KEY
1287	NL	C014	NL	0836	S-KEY
1298	NL	C015	NL	0839	S-KEY
1303	NL	C016	NL	0847	S-KEY
1309	NL	C018	NL	0878	S-KEY
1313	NL	C019	NL	0959	S-KEY
1316	NL	C020	NL	0962	S-KEY
1320	NL	C021	NL	1019	S-KEY
1327	NL	C022	NL	1024	S-KEY
1335	NL	C024	NL	1040	S-KEY
1341	NL	C025	NL	1105	S-KEY
1342	NL	C026	NL	1118	S-KEY
1349	NL	C027	NL	1149	S-KEY
1383	NL	C028	NL	1166	S-KEY
1386	NL	C029	NL	1168	S-KEY
1387	NL	C031	NL	1200	S-KEY
1390	NL			1240	S-KEY
1394	NL	F003	NL	1276	S-KEY
1396	NL				

KEY

NL Non Licensed

S-Key Silent Key

ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Resumé of Society Contests

All contests are held over the second full weekend of a month - all times are GMT.

SERIAL	MONTH	CONTEST	DAY	TIMES - Z	METRE BAND	MODE	REMARKS
1	JANUARY	5 - 59	SUNDAY	1000 - 1230	40 only	CW	Section 5) 1,2,5 & 6) are
2	FEBRUARY	5 - 59	SUNDAY	1400 - 1630	80 only	PHONE	Section 6) additive
3	JUNE	VHF	SUNDAY	1300 - 1700	FOUR DOWN	ANY) Sections 3 & 4) are
4	AUGUST	VHF	SUNDAY	1300 - 1700	FOUR DOWN	ANY) additive
5	NOVEMBER	5 - 59	SUNDAY	1400 - 1630	80 only	CW	Section 1) 1,2,5 & 6) are
6	DECEMBER	5 - 59	SUNDAY	1000 - 1230	40 only	PHONE	Section 2) additive

1. Plaques are awarded to the winners of :-

- (a) 5-59 overall plus 5-59 Trophy for one year.
- (b) 5-59 Sections 1 & 5 plus Le Touquet Trophy for one year.
- (c) 5-59 Sections 2 & 6.
- (d) VHF overall.

OPEN LETTER ACCOMPANYING MERCURY No 63

August '79

Dear Member,

I shouldn't have opened my big mouth!! I reported at the AGM that "MERCURY" was proceeding smoothly and being produced regularly and on time. I hadn't bargained for a "withdrawal of good will" by IFCS personnel and a bout of sickness amongst the printing staff!! "MERCURY" went for printing at the end of the first week in July you can see from the date of this open letter when I got it back after which it had to be collated and stapled by hand!! But it is back and I hope you find something of interest to read. Please note that the Membership Call Sign" list came adrift; it should have spread across pages 30 to 36. You'll find it spread across 30, no number, no number, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36. But it is all there - honest!!

To save me running a separate letter for the forty or so local Harrogate/Catterick members, I'll announce a couple of points for their benefit.

(a) The next NOSTERFIELD meeting is Wednesday 19th September - usual RV "Freemasons Arms", half eight for nine.

(b) I am hoping to activate the Headquarter Station in two contests on Sunday 21st October.

(i) G4RS - RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest, from 0700 - 1900Z - this is a single band, single operator contest. G4CJU, one of our regular NFD operators, has agreed to "flick the wrist" but I am looking for loggers - this contest follows similar lines to NFD and can offer excellent training for our Club support operators.

(ii) G3CIO - On the same day the R.S.G.B. 70 MHz all mode contest is running. Exact details are not to hand as I write but for sure it is not a CW only Contest. So perhaps some of the G8's would like to have a go? G4EMX or I will be available to supervise G3CIO.

Both stations will be operating from different rooms at the Catterick Garrison Club (HQ RSARS). Would anybody interested please get in touch with G4CJU/G4EMX or myself. Thank you very much.

(c) Leicester A.R.R.A. Show - there will be the usual coach running on the Saturday of the show, Nov 10th, make a note in your diaries or envelopes or whatever; further details in the next local letter.

A reminder for the CW fraternity that Ted, GM3LWS, is active until late September as ZC4CZ.

Member 607, Alan, G3YBP has QSYed to Woolacombe, Devon. The new QTH overlooks Woolacombe Bay and is a small family hotel with home cooking. Should any member feel like a break than give Alan a ring on Woolacombe 480 - he will be glad to discuss special rates during the more quiet periods.

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Member 364, G6VQ, who passed away last month. Tom, a great Club man has helped many, many budding amateurs in his time and he will be sadly missed. I have written on your behalf to Mary, his XYL, offering her our sincere condolences at this sad time.

On that rather subdued note.

G3EKL

General Secretary

RSARS STORES PRICE LIST - Effective 1 AUG 1979

	Price	UK/BFPO Postage & Packing	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p
100 Sheets of Headed Notepaper	1 00	40	1 40
500 Sheets of Headed Notepaper	4 00	70	4 70
100 Basic QSL cards or index cards	75	35	1 10
250 Basic QSL cards or index cards	1 75	80	2 55
500 Basic QSL cards or index cards	3 10	1 10	4 20
1000 Basic QSL cards or index cards	6 00	1 30	7 30
500 Overprinted QSL cards	5 90	1 10	7 00
1000 Overprinted QSL cards	9 70	1 30	11 00
1 Flat RSARS Badge (enamelled)	40	15	55
1 Call-sign Lapel Badge (enamelled with pin on reverse)	1 00	15	1 15
1 RSARS Tie	2 65	15	2 80
1 RSARS Station Log Book	40	20	60
3 RSARS Station Log Books	1 00	35	1 35
5 RSARS Station Log Books	1 60	60	2 20
1 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Book	40	15	55
3 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Books	1 00	25	1 25
5 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Books	1 60	40	2 00
1 RSARS Dymo Badge (1 Row)	25	15	40
1 RSARS Dymo Badge (2 Row)	40	15	55
1 RSARS Windscreen Sticker	35	15	50
2 RSARS Windscreen Stickers	60	15	75
Great Circle Bearing/Distance Chart	1 25	75	2 00

Awards and Contest Rules - FREE - SAE

Membership Call-sign List - FREE - SAE

"SIGNALS NETS" or Where you might find them!

ALL TIMES are UK CLOCK TIMES except the 20 metre Overseas Net which is in GMT.
ALL FREQUENCIES are PLUS or MINUS the QRG shown - search boldly.

L.F. NETS PHONE

SUNDAY	1100	3720 or 7075 kHz	Controlled Natter Net, with 3740 alternative
MONDAY	1300	7075 or 3740 kHz	Natter Group for approximately 15-30 minutes
TUESDAY	1900	3740 kHz	CONTROLLED NET
THURSDAY	1900	3740 kHz	CONTROLLED NET
SATURDAY	1100	7075 kHz	CONTROLLED NET. If conditions on 40m do not permit inter-G operation net will move to 3720 MHz. at 1115 hrs.

L.F. NETS CW

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

HIGH FREQUENCY NETS PHONE

WEDNESDAY	1300 GMT	14130 kHz with an alternative 14275 kHz	Though primarily a CONTROLLED NET the UK controller usually requires an overseas station to assume co-control, if more than 2 overseas stations join in. 14275 kHz is for the benefit of those USA and other members who prefer this part of the spectrum. Please monitor both QRGs
-----------	----------	---	---

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

14065, 21065, 21375, 28065 and 28450 kHz.

OTHER FREQUENCIES AND MODES

RTTY 3590 & 14090 kHz Use 170 Hz shift and 45.5 Bauds.

SLOW SCAN Please notify activity to Headquarters for publication.

VHF FREQUENCIES

RSARS SPOT CHANNELS are 70.22 and 144.22 MHz Please notify locally arranged nets for Mercury publication.

ACTIVITY SUNDAY

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

SLOW MORSE TRANSMISSIONS - From G4RS each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 1900 Clock time on 3565 and 144.11 MHz (beaming NE or SE)

All modes.: Call 'CQ RSARS' or 'CQ ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY'. During a QSO sign 'G1ABC de G1DEF BT BOTH RSARS K' or 'ONONO de G1GHI BT RSARS K'. DO NOT join 'RSARS' to your call-sign in any way (i.e. G1JKL/RSARS). 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.