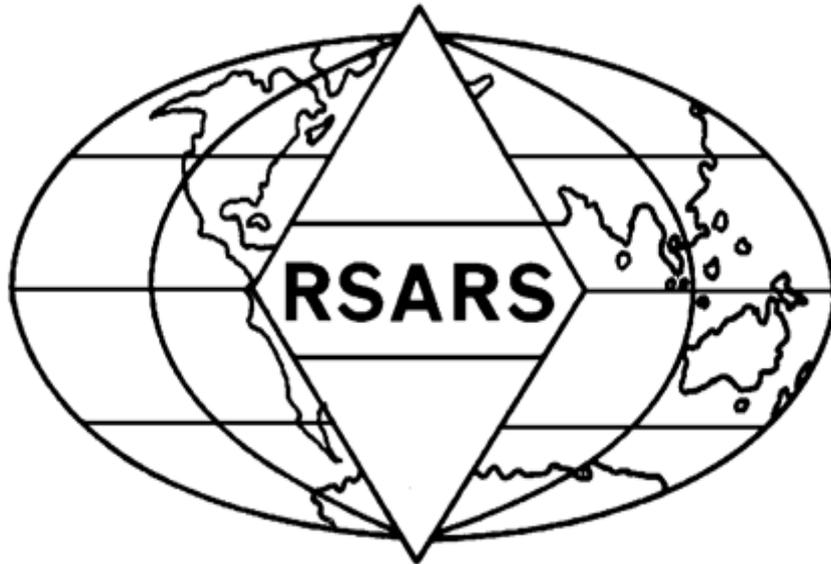


MERCURY



NUMBER 65

MARCH 1980

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A POLICEMAN'S INTERPRETATION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE.

(The following article was first published in the UK FM Southern Journal, Vol.3 No.3. We are indebted to that Journal, to The UK FM Group (Southern) and to the Editor, Chris Jackson, G8POB, for permission to reprint. It is stressed that this article represents one person's view of Licence regulations and does not necessarily represent an "official" viewpoint- Ed.)

There have been, and will probably be in the future, many interpretations of how a person may operate his radio station. There are several ambiguities - should a cyclist use the suffix stroke Mobile or stroke Portable, for instance?,

Let's get out the Licence. I suspect with many of you it will at least need the dust removed.

In the light of the present requirement for some of my colleagues to check vehicle-borne radio equipment, I hope a copy of the licence, along with the usual means of identification can be produced if you are stopped. Similarly, you should be able to produce these documents if necessary when carrying what you call hand-held transceivers away from the vehicle or licensed address.

The first thing I noticed on looking at an Amateur Radio Licence was the fact that a date of issue is given but there is no indication that the licence is still current. A receipt of renewal would be a useful addition.

Section 1 appears straight forward. However, Section 1 (a) (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) read in conjunction with Section 9 in total need to be understood as you are required to change procedures and in certain cases notify various authorities of your activities. You are permitted to operate at any premises or location - subject to the owners permission or local regulations - for separate periods not exceeding four weeks. You should use the suffix "/A" with your call-sign for temporary premises and the suffix "/P" for the temporary location. Please note the time limit of four consecutive weeks, after which notification in writing is required to be given to the local Post Office General Manager. It would appear that after the request to use the alternative premises has been agreed no suffix is required. Section 9 (2) and (4) also demand that the call-sign should for all cases be given at the beginning and end of each period of sending and when the frequency is changed. I would interpret "each period of sending" as being the period you call a QSO. If you go on speaking for what is, to me, the phenomenal time of 15 minutes or succeeding periods of 15 minutes, your call-sign should be given at least at the beginning and end of each 15 minute period.

Another important requirement when operating under the conditions needing the suffix "/A" or - I"/P" is to give your address. To me this means the full address, e.g. No.6 Longbottom Road, Kingworthy, Near Winchester, Hants. Some common sense is, of course, required with "/P" and "/M" (Mobile) locations. Farley Hil 1- off the A30 for "/P", and Winslade on the A339, when mobile, for example, should be sufficient. Obviously, when mobile this will normally be a different location at the beginning and end of your QSO.

Rather more open to interpretation or, perhaps, common sense is the suffix "/M" and "/P" when a vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian is involved with radio equipment. When the radio station is used in a vehicle or vessel, the suffix "/M" shall be added to the call-sign. The use of "Static Mobile" which I have occasionally heard on your VHF systems not only disobeys my schoolboy physics, but, I am assured by The Home Office, that there is no such animal. In short, the licence states, use "/M", nothing else is asked for.

If you use an installation in a vehicle or vessel you are "Mobile" regardless of conditions although mobile at sea is a special case. It appears that if a vessel is a boat, ship or amphibian whilst at sea, including a river estuary or dock - whenever the water is salty in fact, a special licence is required.

Also when travelling on ferries and public service vehicles other regulations apply that I will mention a little later.

One possible ambiguity as to what prefix to use arises when riding a bicycle, or a horse for that matter. The law considers neither to be vehicles in the strict understanding of the word so the suffix

A POLICEMAN'S INTERPRETATION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE - Contd.

"/P" is most appropriate. Parts of Section 2 (limitations) of your licence has a particular relevance to me- Subsection (c) clearly points out the use of the radio station only by persons lawfully entitled to do so. It also stresses to me that if you are away from your radio station it should not be accessible to unauthorised persons. It appears that you should not let the wife, kids or friends use the equipment unless licensed and under supervision. Subsection (a) is a requirement which covers the "disruption to the safety of life due to interference to other systems caused by the use of your equipment in an aircraft or public service vehicle"- In addition, other regulations apply - don't operate on buses or trains, for instance [Reg.9 Public Service Vehicles [Conduct of Drivers, Conductors and Passengers] Regulation. 1936], which broadly says "Don't cause annoyance". This would also apply to the playing of musical instruments, singing or shouting. Regulations 10 and 11 say that permission must be sought to carry bulky or cumbersome articles on a public service vehicle. This could apply to the amateur wanting to travel on a bus with the radio he calls his "227R" together with his motor-cycle battery.

An additional regulation that is particularly relevant to your "/M" activities is Regulation 111 of the Motor Vehicles [Construction and Use] Regulations. This states that if a person is driving a motor vehicle on a road, he SHALL be in a position TO HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE and a full view of the road and traffic ahead. Also Sections 2 and 3 - Reckless and Careless Driving. If, through using a microphone whilst mobile you find yourself in a situation where an accident occurs, you were "reckless" as to the situation arising.

In short, the driver of the vehicle should not use the microphone when actually moving. I must admit I personally do not know of an accident caused by the use of the microphone by the driver and it appears that amateur radio users are more alert because of the "company" and generally are driving slower and with more care than many other motorists - but, the law is the law

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SWOP-SHOP?

Also seen in the UK FM (Southern) Journal, "Ex W.D. Holly, 1941, as new, Berries extra. Will exchange for pre-1938 mistletoe (proven). Contact: S. Claus, G2XMS.

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BACK TO ZL.

A letter from Tom Barrett, G4IGE/ZL3AGB, 47 Arnold Street, Sumner, Christchurch 8, New Zealand. Tom writes "I finally arrived back in ZL-land on 7 November complete with my bike which I brought back with me as part of my personal baggage. It meant sorting out some of my stuff to make sure I kept within my baggage allowance; the rest is on its way by parcel post. I had an uneventful flight back via Athens and Dubai with a two-night stop-over in Singapore. I have since got my bike back on the road after giving it a thorough clean and am now trying to get in a few miles. It's a racing machine and the frame alone in this country costs \$(NZ) 525 : 00 (about £242) and I only paid £35 : 00 Duty. I had a big welcome back from my XYL, Pat, and our family of 3 cats. In due course I hope to get the base station operational." (Tom operated -"Bikemobile" on 2 Metres from the New Forest area during his visit. Any standard operating times/frequencies from ZL, Tom? - Ed.).

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PUBLICATION DEAD-LINE.

Frank, G5BM, in a letter to HQ queried the deadline for "Mercury" copy. Well we try and keep it as open as possible but members should try and get material to the Editor by the middle of the 2nd, 6th and 10th month of the year. Publication is due during the 3rd, 7th and 11th months. Any last minute items can be sent to the Gen. Sec. at Catterick but no guarantee regarding publication can be given. Generally speaking "the earlier, the better" - Keep those items rolling in.



(Being snippets of information which have reached Society officials by many and various means).

It is reported that G4AWI had one of those unfortunate sneezing incidents from which he became "stuck" with a bad back- However, the OWL reports seeing him at the Cenotaph Service on Remembrance Day, although it is understood that a week's treatment at St. Dunstan's followed. We trust all is now well, George

Editorial Note. For many weeks the OWL has been laughing whenever I mentioned the recent "Where were we all?" article. I now know why - thanks to several members who kindly wrote in. Item 6 on page 39 of the last edition showed "Operatots", instead of "Operators". As Dick G3NVK, remarked "Opera Tots! - I ask you!!.. Is this Boys Service Choristers?". Sorry - Ed.

According to information received by the OWL V. Tindall BRS 41351/RSARS 1407 has successfully claimed the RNARS Morse Proficiency Award for 20 wpm with an endorsement for 25 wpm and hopes, by the time this is read, to have applied for a 30 wpm endorsement. Good Luck, OM.

You've heard of BCI, you've heard of TVI - now meet CHI. It has come to the OWL's notice that DA1JW (who will be remembered as ZC4AU in the past) has suffered from Central Heating Interference. When transmitting on 80 the radiated RF apparently causes operation of the local Central Heating Control equipment. (To which the OWL was heard to remark "I've heard the antenna boffins talking about radiators, but this is ridiculous.....).

Many amateurs work for Awards, but news just received by the OWL indicates that a special Award has just been received by George, G4BNI. It is 2 feet 6 inches long and 6 inches wide. It takes the form of a Wooden Spoon and on the handle are the words "The World's Greatest Stirrer". Apparently, it was presented to George by GI3TAN, G4HIS, G3XSN and G3WRY. The reason for the presentation of this Award is not known, but whilst the OWL was looking at it (it hangs on the door of the 'BNI shack). George was heard to comment something about surrounding it with photographs "one of the thin one, one of the fat one, a G3WRY-type sinking boat and GI3TAN mixing some of his wonderful garden compost". (We still don't know why he got it!!! - Ed.).

If you hear G4IXZ don't pass him by. The OWL informs us that this is now the call-sign of Frank Ford, RSARS 1383. (Congratulations - Ed.). The station was already set up and ready to go, when who should drop in but G3JXL and XYL. The rig was well and truly "aired" as G3JXL/A by contacts with G3CJ and G4DBR. The issue of this call-sign puts Frank back on the air for the first time since closing down as VS2BG at Malaya Command Signals in 1947.

The OWL hears that RSARS 1417 VK5YQ has had a serious operation but is now fast on the road to recovery. We all wish you well, OM, and hope that you can soon join the lads in contacts with Les, VK2NLE. Lots of members are looking for Overseas RSARS contacts.

Another RSARS call-sign to look for will be G4EUQ and if you haven't already worked him, one you will have missed is DA1WJ, In other words, Sgt. Wynn, RSARS 0055, is home from 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps L.A.D. and can be now found at 263 Oak Close, Middle Wallop, Near Stockbridge, Hants.

Whilst on the subject of new RSARS call-signs, the OWL wishes to point that that S/Sgt Pete Sheppard is now in Germany with 3 Armoured Div. Transport Regiment and, after a three month's wait, has received the call-sign DA1PR. Pete is located on the top floor of a block about 60 feet a.g.l. and will be running a TS-520-S and an IC-245-E. all bands 1.8 to 144 MHz.

A letter from S. Barrett, G3WHZ. "Conifers", Cumberland Street, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 5BW and dated 23/11/79 answers one from G3DPS dated 22/4/74 asking if G3WHZ would like to "re-enlist". Happily, the answer was "Yes" and subs., etc., have been forwarded to Ray. So yet another call-sign to look for - G3WHZ - (Welcome back, OM).

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

It has been reported by the OWL that a certain boat sailing member (see 6 paras. above!) has now reached the Mk. IV stage with a wind driven cycle dynamo with a certain degree of success - a reasonable output when the boat is sailing head on into a Force 5 or above. We await details of the reasons for these experiments. (Could it be QRPPP?).

Whilst browsing through "Radial" the OWL noticed the following: English Amateur to American Amateur "Why pronounce Schedule as Skedule?". American Amateur "In my Shool we had a different sheme of pronunciation".

Also whilst he was browsing through the January 1980 "RadCom" (he always gets to them first! - Ed.) the OWL noticed an advert in the section from David, G4DXX, asking for pre-War QSL cards from VU2BZ rang a bell, as VU2BZ was later to become RSARS. If you have any pre-War VU2BZ QSLs you no longer require please pass them along to G4DXX QTHR or ring him on 0524 73 4274 after 7 p.m. VU2BZ was G4DXX's OM.

Whilst visiting the Budleigh Salterton area recently, the OWL noticed the TH3 that used to grace the garden of a certain G3HWL is no longer there. In its place is a 4-element 20 Metre Mono-Bander. Making a few local enquiries the OWL found out that Les is now almost entirely 20-Metre orientated. He also discovered that Les's son and daughter-in-law have been teaching in Tanzania with the Voluntary Service Overseas but should have both been home for Christmas. (Apparently the OWL spent some time looking in the shack window at G3HWL and was amused to see Les trying to "formulate" a rank of the 73/88 Foot and Mouth as used to divide sections of "Mercury". Before leaving he explained as follows: type a row of lower case 'o', overprint same row with ' (apostrophe), overprint same row with HALF-SPACED / (oblique strokes), move down one line. Type upper case 'O' overprint with - (hyphen). Move down one line. Type " (inverted commas) Not all typewriters or typefaces will produce the correct degree of art. ("Here is the Six O'Clock News. All over the country mysterious pieces of paper have been discovered showing what appears to be visitors from Outer Space, although Scotland Yard now believe that they have something to do with radio amateurs particularly members of The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.....").

The OWL reports seeing the following: I recently ordered some cards and things from Ron (G3NKO) and included an extra item - "One G3NKO CW QSL card". No results yet, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed". (The OWL flatly refuses to tell me that this came from G3BWX - Ed.).

Mike Taylor has now settled in Germany with the call-sign DA2QU and hopes to be active on 80 and 20 by the time this is read. He asks that the following be inserted in "Mercury" and we are happy to do so.

MAJOR MIKE TAYLOR, DA2QU/RSARS 0226, ASKS FOR HELP IN ADDING TO HIS COLLECTION OF SUITCASE TYPE TX/RX's AND ASSOCIATED LITERATURE, INSTRUCTION MANUALS, ETC, PARTICULARLY SOUGHT IS A GOOD B2 (TYPE 3 MARK 2) OR ANY PARTS FOR IT, IRRESPECTIVE OF CONDITION, INCLUDING P.S.U., MANUAL, SPARES BOX, ANTENNA, KEY, HEADPHONES, MAINS PLUG ADAPTORS WITH CONVERSION PINS, ETC, ALSO SOUGHT IS A COMPLETE B2 "MINOR" (TYPE A MARK 3) AND THE FOLLOWING SETS: MK 119, MK 122, MK 128A, MK 128B, MK 217, BP5(T5), AR11 AND A3. INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SETS ALSO WELCOME. PLEASE CONTACT MIKE BY LETTER : C/o 31 WILLOW WALK, CULVERSTONE, GRAVESEND. KENT.

RSARS HQ has received, according to OWL information, a copy of the 1979 New Zealand "Break-In" Call Book. This came from Evan ZL1AGJ/1256. Mni Tnx.

Looking through the records at the Portland Road (Hove) school Evening Classes for 1927 to 1930, the OWL was interested to find Stan's name (G2DPY). Stan apparently studied Short-hand and Typing and eventually became a Book-keeper/Shorthand Typist.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

By now Renee, the XYL of Les, VK2NLE, will probably have had two operations for arthritis of both legs. We wish her well and that progress will be such that both Renee and Les can visit the U.K. as planned in the not too distant future.

Dady VU2MD/RSARS 0767, in writing to TOPS HQ commented that he was surprised at the high U.K. licence fee, and mentions that in VU-land it is still the equivalent of 94p per year. (How about a list of operating times and frequencies, Dady? Lots of members would like to hook up with you for another Overseas RSARS contact. - Ed.).

Non-member G4CBA is receiving cards for "Fred", JW3EV/JX3EV and wishes it to be known that he has no knowledge of this operator/these stations.

During one of his recent overseas trips, the OWL recently bumped into Larry Dykstra, WB7CZW/RSARS 0990. Some confusion had existed about Larry's membership but this was quickly cleared up when HQ received a photo-copy of the membership card of RSARS 0990. This clearly shows that he has been a Life Member since 1st October 1977. Larry is keen to meet members and the OWL understands that he can be regularly heard on 10 Metres between 28.800 and 29.000 MHz but will make a point of operating at 14.30 GMT on Sundays on 28.575 MHz + or - and will call and listen for RSARS members. The address is: Larry R. Dykstra, WB7CZW/RSARS 0990. 7913F Cayer Court, Fort Meade, Maryland. 20755, U.S.A. We won't say "Welcome back", Larry, because you haven't been away!!.

RSARS 1378, who was 9G1KU, is now G4FZA and living at 4 St. James Close, Hanslope, Milton Keynes. John has not been very active since returning from 9G1-land mainly due to the amount of work that had to be put into the new QTH. However he did manage one QSO with G3ADZ. Around June or July 1980, John will be on the move again, this time to Kingston, Jamaica, where he expects to stay for about three years. He is hopeful of getting a 6Y call-sign and he will operate mainly CW but is willing to go 'SSB' for RSARS member contacts.

A letter from John, G4DBR, encloses a check log for one leg of the 5-59 Contest and states that he had hoped to claim his RSARS "Bronze" Award in 1979 - but a final check on the QSL's showed that HE WAS ONE CARD SHORT! (Hard Luck John). John goes on to say "I can say in all honesty that the friendship of many members of RSARS has helped me through a very traumatic 1979. Owing to increased domestic chores, I have not been so active since my wife's death, but I am hoping that I can continue to the best of my ability in the coming year and, perhaps, join in more often. Kindest regards and 73 to all".

G2AYY writes from 20 St. Annes Drive, Fence, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 9DY to explain his being absent from parade recently. This has been due to 80 Metre antenna trouble which should have been cleared by the New Year.

From "Conewood", 63 Sandy Lane, St. Ives, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 2LE, Charles Collins-Hooper, RSARS 0159 sends along his 1980 sub and his best wishes to all members. If you are a Regimental-Number-Rememberer try 2317490 when you should associate that number with Sergeant Collins-Hooper - but you'll have to go back to 1926!!!.

Member 0299, H. Joslin writes from 73 Trailer Park, Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 6DW to wish all members a Happy New Year and to thank all those who keep me entertained on Tuesday and Thursday evenings".

Other New Year greetings come from G. Ginders, G3XHA/0336 who writes to pass them along from himself and "all RSARS members in the Scarborough area (8, I think!)".

News from G4FOZ/RSARS 1193 comes in a letter from 14 Stirling Road, Market Lavington, Wiltshire which is a new QTH for WO II (SMIG) D.M. Moodie. Apparently a previous notification of change of address must have gone astray in the Post. G4FOZ expects to become GM4FOZ around April 1980, although the exact location is not yet known.

THE OWL REPORT - Contd.

Gerry Brennan BEM (mentioned elsewhere and previously ZC4AU) writes to say that he has been QRT for about 2 years, prior to appearing on the 80 Metre Net one evening, but the bug as "re-bitten" and a new rig has been purchased, so there should be plenty of activity during the coming year. Gerry's address is WO II G. Brennan BEM RCT, 28 Tpt & Mov Regt RCT, BFPO 34. Unless plans are upset by possible promotion, Gerry hopes to be DA1JW for at least 10 months of 1980.

Colonel (Rtd) W.H. Lloyd, G5TV, of 13 Monro Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, HA3 6HH writes as follows "Having reached the age of 83 I have decided to do two things - both dear to my heart - Firstly, I have handed in my Drivers Licence (which dates back to 1921) and, secondly, I have given in my Amateur Transmitting Licence and resigned from the R.S.G.B. Both date back to 1924 - I think it only fair, therefore, to also resign from the R.S.A.R.S., saving you time and money. I have enjoyed many articles in "Mercury" and would like to thank Editors and Authors

With regard to G5TV, if you have a copy of "World at their Fingertips" by John Clarricoats, G6CL, on page 21 you can read about G5TV/W.H. Lloyd, boy and man." (G5TV is obviously not past it - he ends his letter "73 and if you have WRAC girls in your office, 88" - Ed.).

A "QTH Correction" comes in the Post from William Perry who actually lives at 5 (and NOT 55 as the Membership List shows) Barnett Green, The Paddock, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9PG. William has been making good use of a Morse Record (which, at 78 rpm will produce 42 wpm!) and his present speed is 15 - 16 wpm, which should satisfy any examiner. William does quite a bit of his SWL work at the office shack - G4FSO.

G3SGH is very keen to contact an old colleague of his. His name is GEORGE DAVEY, and he served in 5 L. of C. Signals in Jerusalem around 1942. If you have any news or know George's whereabouts, please drop a line to J.R.M. Hewitt, G3SGH/0151, 28 Mardol Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9RA.

Eric J, Blake, G4HWQ/RSARS 1433 sends along his latest QTH (see "Welcome" Section). This is now Beech Holme Hotel, Cromwell Parade, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2DP.

Johnny Walker, GW3UDU, also has a new QTH, etc. He is now at 68 Brynawel, Brynmawr, Gwent, NP3 4RZ. If you require a land-line QSO the numerical call-sign is Brynmawr (0495) 311611 (and not 311237, which the GPO gave him before discovering that it had already been issued!). Johnny is having trouble with local piped TV, which runs a sub-carrier at 10.230 MHz, and anything over about 10 Watts of RF on HF gives TVI. Fortunately, VHF does not appear to affect it, and GW3UDU can be heard on VHF CW running around 100 Watts and looking for some responses from "somewhere up the North".

During a "flying" visit to the U.S.A. recently, the OWL stopped off in Arizona and decided to drop in on a local production of Gilbert and Sullivans "The Gondoliers". He was pleased to see the well-known face of RSARS 0557 actively engaged in the production. In fact, the local papers next day carried a write-up complete with photo. (Well done, John).

On his return to the U.K. the OWL surveyed the Eastbourne area and was pleased to find that G3KLX, G3PHK, G3YSZ and G3GZG are all keeping the RSARS flag flying including a bit of "lamp swinging". Apparently SWL's have been heard to remark that the various discussions regarding "Up the Khyber", N.W.F., D.I.K., Quetta, Dargai, Malakand, etc., have proved very interesting. Before leaving Cyril, G3YSZ (who, the OWL tells us, was always known as "Tubby") asked him to let G4FVR know that he is still awaiting that QSO!

RSARS 0110, otherwise G3DOJ, is looking for an Oxley Tempatrimmer or the address of Oxley. Info and/or Tempatrimmers to Bill Omer 81 Eastfield Road, Burnham, Buckinghamshire, SL1 7EL. (The OWL has a feeling that these were used in some Service equipments, Bill, possibly the D11).



COMMERCIAL RTTY - Continued from "Mercury" No. 64.

| Frequency | Call-sign | Agency | Country | Copied | Date |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------|-------|
| 8067.5 | DMV7 | ADN | East Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 8085 | | SANA | Syria | _____ | _____ |
| 8105 | 9VF42 | ANSA | Singapore | _____ | _____ |
| 8125 | | MENA | Syria | _____ | _____ |
| 8133 | SO121 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 8137 | TCY1 | AA | Turkey | _____ | _____ |
| 8142.5 | OLX4 | CETEKA | Czechoslovakia | _____ | _____ |
| 8152 | VNA14 | VNA | Vietnam | _____ | _____ |
| 8175 | JAE58 | KNS | Japan | _____ | _____ |
| 8190 | | MONTSAME | Mongolia | _____ | _____ |
| 8192.5 | SO131 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 8353 | | ORBE | Chile | _____ | _____ |
| 8466 | EAB6/8/17 | | Spain | _____ | _____ |
| 8590 | RRE31 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 9053 | DMV8 | ADN | East Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 9070 | | SANA | Syria | _____ | _____ |
| 9076.5 | GPR29 | REUTER | Great Britain | _____ | _____ |
| 9097 | | SANA | Syria | _____ | _____ |
| 9105 | BAW39 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 9110 | RDZ77 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 9114 | HGG31 | MTI | Hungary | _____ | _____ |
| 9118.4 | GPN29 | KPS | Great Britain | _____ | _____ |
| 9125 | RKD49 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 9132 | VNA26 | VNA | Vietnam | _____ | _____ |
| 9147 | | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 9212 | WFH49 | JTA | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 9301 | YKZ14 | SANA | Syria | _____ | _____ |
| 9327.5 | WFI29 | UPI | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 9353 | OLX5 | CETEKA | Czechoslovakia | _____ | _____ |
| 9354 | GIC26 | AP | Great Britain | _____ | _____ |
| 9361.9 | DFJ36LI | DPA | West Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 9362 | CLN261 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 9375 | 3MA25 | CNA | Taiwan | _____ | _____ |
| 9380 | | APS | Algeria | _____ | _____ |
| 9385 | HMK22 | KCNA | North Korea | _____ | _____ |
| 9391 | SOJ23 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 9395 | HMK21 | KCNA | North Korea | _____ | _____ |
| 9417 | BZP59 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 9430 | ZAT | ATA | Albania | _____ | _____ |
| 9440 | HMFIS | KCNA | North Korea | _____ | _____ |
| 9443 | ISX93 | ANSA | Italy | _____ | _____ |
| 9491 | BZR69 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 9797 | YOJ27 | AGERPRES | Romania | _____ | _____ |
| 9867 | YAZ74 | INA | Iraq | _____ | _____ |
| 9882 | BZG46 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 9900 | CLN264 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 9955.5 | CLN265 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 10105 | RKA79 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10105 | | SUNA | Sudan | _____ | _____ |

COMMERCIAL RTTY - Contd.

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 10120 | HMR59 | KCNA | North Korea | _____ | _____ |
| 10131-5 | DFK25H4 | FGIS | West Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 10148.5 | DFK27L2 | FGIS | West Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 10150 | SUA246 | MENA | Egypt | _____ | _____ |
| 10155 | VKH88 | REUTER | Australia | _____ | _____ |
| 10165 | RPT31 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10187-5 | WWF70 | SEF | Morocco | _____ | _____ |
| 10190 | CLN285 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 10215 | ISX21 | ANSA | Italy | _____ | _____ |
| 10217-5 | 9VF59 | FGIS | Singapore | _____ | _____ |
| 10240 | RGE34 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10245 | SOK42 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 10258 | RDZ71 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10270 | RKA25 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10278 | SOK22 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 10287 | | IIS | Indonesia | _____ | _____ |
| 10290 | RRQ23 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10340 | | APS | Algeria | _____ | _____ |
| 10360 | CLN288 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 10362 | DZG30 | UPI | Philippines | _____ | _____ |
| 10435 | ZAY | ATA | Albania | _____ | _____ |
| 10465 | RKA74 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10497 | SOK44 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 10510 | ZAY3 | ATA | Albania | _____ | _____ |
| 10562-5 | DZP26 | AP | Philippines | _____ | _____ |
| 10580 | HMK25 | KCNA | North Korea | _____ | _____ |
| 10592-5 | WFL30 | UPI | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10600 | VNA25 | VNA | Vietnam | _____ | _____ |
| 10675 | RCF43 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10694 | SOK26 | PAP | Poland | _____ | _____ |
| 10710 | JAG30 | JPS | Japan | _____ | _____ |
| 10720 | BAS63 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 10746-5 | WFK60 | ARF | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10748-5 | WFL60 | ANSA | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10752 | ATE61 | PTI | India | _____ | _____ |
| 10753-5 | WFK80 | REUTER | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10765 | RCF43 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10785 | DKG7/DMV42 | ADN | East Germany | _____ | _____ |
| 10790 | RKA71 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10795 | JAG50 | KNS | Japan | _____ | _____ |
| 10810 | 9VF249 | ANSA | Singapore | _____ | _____ |
| 10820 | WFD90 | DPA | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10825 | WFE20 | UPI | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10862 | BZC71 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 10865 | RZA24 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10880 | ISX88 | ANSA | Italy | _____ | _____ |
| 10880 | RKE22 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10890 | WFE40 | AP | USA | _____ | _____ |
| 10893 | SUA23 | AFP | Egypt | _____ | _____ |
| 10920 | DMV22 | ADN | East Germany | _____ | _____ |

COMMERCIAL RTTY - Contd.

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|-------|
| 10940 | FTK94 | AFP | France | _____ | _____ |
| 10975 | JAG50 | JIJI | Japan | _____ | _____ |
| 10980 | BQQ22 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 10982 | BAP40 | HNA | China | _____ | _____ |
| 10985 | RCB53 | TASS | USSR | _____ | _____ |
| 10986 | GPR30 | REUTER | Great Britain | _____ | _____ |
| 10990 | CIN299 | PLN | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 11002.5 | OIO5 | CETEKKA | Czechoslovakia | _____ | _____ |
| 11012.5 | JAI21 | JIJI | Japan | _____ | _____ |
| 11110 | CIN321 | PL | Cuba | _____ | _____ |
| 11110 | IZG2 | BTA | Bulgaria | _____ | _____ |

(To be continued)



TOP BAND CW NET REPORT.

FRANK

WATTS/G5BM.

The change in the Net frequency from 1.837 to 1.823 MHz made in June 1979 proved to be a wise choice as very little QRM is now experienced and I am grateful to Dennis, G3ADZ, for introducing this just before I took over the reins.

The average attendance of members on this Net since July 4th 1979 has been 6 including myself with a maximum of 9 and a minimum of 3. In addition, the sessions have been livened up on several occasions by foreign hams breaking in and requesting reports from members. These include EA8QO, also F2, F8, OK1, SP7, SP9, UA2, DF5 and EI prefixes. Thus our signals have travelled up to approximately 1,800 miles [EA8].

In view of the proven European coverage of the Net under reasonable conditions, I would appeal to RSARS members in Continental countries and the Mediterranean area to monitor 1.823 MHz at sked-time on Wednesday evenings and call if they hear us.

I look forward to the continued support of our "regulars" and extend a warm welcome to new participants. I also thank Dennis, G3ADZ, and Doug, G3KLLX, for "standing in" for me when I have been unable to attend.

73 Frank.



CW NET ROLL-CALL.

Frank, G5BM, reports that the following stations have "checked in" to the Top Band CW Net since July last: G2BQ, G2BTO, G2FWZ, G2HLL, G3ADZ, G3BY, G3EHZ, G3EZE, G3GZG, G3IFF, G3KLLX, G3LWI, G3NT, G3UPY, G3VA, G3VED/A, G3VDF, G3XSN, G3XTL, G3YNT, G3YSK, G3ZEE, G4BC, G4IHS, G5YN, G6HB, GI3JEX, GI5DX, GI4GNT (RNARS) GM3LWS, GM3PFQ and GM3XMZ.



NEW CALL-SIGNS.

The following members have either changed their call-signs or won one!!!

0055 - G4EUQ, 0099 - G5KW, 0528 - G3WOV, 0709 - GW4ELI, 0806 - G4HIS, 0947 - GW5NF
1164 - DA1JW, 1193 - G4FOZ, 1202 - G4AYD, 1273 - G4ITP, 1331 - DA4DY, 1381 - G4HVA
1390 - G8UDM, 1402 - GM8UGV, 1413 - G4JIR.

This information is only as accurate as my eyes/ears tell me. Please let HQ know of any other changes.

73 Ray/G3EKL

THE CANADIAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

(Just as we closed for press, the following item was received at HQ. - Ed).

Meet your CRRL Director: (VE3CDM/RSARS 0674 -Ed.)

Over the period of the next few months, we shall be presenting all of your CRRL officers and directors. In as much as Director Tom Atkins. VE3CDM, is lucky enough to have a surname commencing with the letter "A", we start off this series with him.

Tom, currently one of the founding fathers of the CRRL and therefore a charter director, in addition to being the Canadian member of the newly formed ARRL Public Relations Advisory Committee, has served organised Amateur Radio in many different capacities for the past 11 years. From 1969 to 1978 he was a member of the Executive of The Radio Society of Ontario, Inc., - as an elected delegate, associate editor of "The Ontario Amateur", chairman of public relations and external affairs, director, vice president and president. For two years he was the Ontario director of CARF and an active member of the CARF WARC Advisory Committee. Since 1978 he has been an assistant director of the ARRL Canadian Division.

Tom's beginning in Amateur Radio came in 1943 when he joined the RSGB. He holds the call G4ABN and is an Advanced Amateur. He was on the Executive of the West Side ARC and chairman of public relations for the Ontario Science Centre ARC, in addition to being one of the founding members of the Ontario ATV association. Other affiliations include life Memberships in ARRL. Royal Signals ARS, RSO, and membership in the Canada DX Association, Toronto FM Communications Society and the Collier County ARC in Florida, where Tom operates portable W4 from Naples as often as he can visit the family condominium. He is active on 80 Metres through 75 centimetres, trustee for the Club station VE3XTV, and sponsors a white-caner. With formal training in law and business administration, Tom has been professionally involved as an executive in the advertising, marketing and programming areas of commercial broadcasting since 1954 and is presently a vice president of Standard Broadcast Sales Company Ltd. in Toronto. (The RSARS offers Tom its sincere congratulations on his Directorship).



DO YOU KNOW.....?

There are or were at least 24 Regiments of the British Army who did not or do not drink the Loyal Toast. The OWL would like to hear from any member who can list 10 or more of them. If that proves a little difficult, try listing 5 of the 12 Regiments who do, or did, drink the Loyal Toast seated or proposed it seated and drink/drank it standing.

What was once Princess Charlotte of Wales's and later became the Duke of Edinburgh's?, (Answer elsewhere).

Who were nicknamed "The Mud Larks", "The Measurers" and "The Mounted Bricklayers"? (Answer elsewhere).

Which two Units shared the nickname "Strawboots"? (Answer elsewhere)

Who were raised first - the 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th 5th or 6th Dragoon Guards? (Answer elsewhere)



COULD IT REALLY BE TRUE??

(The following was sent to the Editor and is a cutting from a newspaper although which one is not known (the reverse side carries an advert for a well-known meat extract). We are happy to make acknowledgements to the original publishers. - Ed.).

"Radio hams around the world are being hoaxed when they tune in for a chat with "Marcos". He says he's a truck driver, sounds illiterate, and holds moronic conversations about the weather and radio frequencies. The truth is that "Marcos" is really MARLON BRANDO, hamming it up on high-powered radio equipment which he keeps on his South Seas island hideaway. He's going batty, of course." (The item was headed "A Ham to the very end" - Ed.).

JUST WHAT IS A "GOOD" RADIO QTH.

GW3ASW.

(Or: DON'T MOAN - THE QTH's OF OTHERS ARE VERY MUCH WORSE!!!).

About 10 years ago it was realised that this homestead was not exactly the world's best location for the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Beams had been proved to be useless as they were just "shedding their load" into the surrounding hills. Yet I still persevered checking out just about every type of beam - cranky or otherwise that have been on the market either as just designs or as actual beams. To no avail. However, then I concentrated upon high-angle radiators, even if it did mean a multi-hop path into the DX and to overseas members.

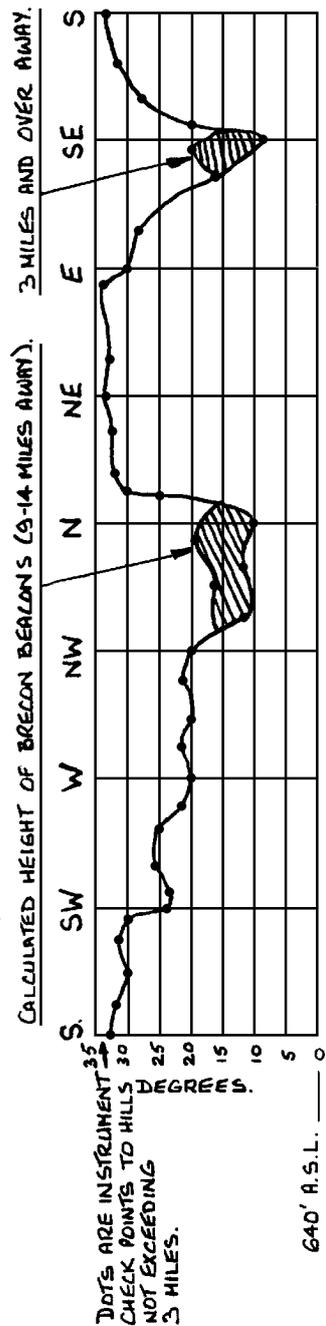
Take a look at the graph on the right. This represents an "instrument" look at the hills. It is necessary, to interpret the graph correctly, to consider the line marked Zero to be a single spot that has been stretched out almost as per Mercators Projection. Only at North (the centre line) have I a path that is less than 11 degrees, and although the hills immediately adjacent to me are less than this, I have, within a few miles, the "backing obstacles" (shown shaded) that block the RF path.

Originally this was pictured with the aid of a theodolite borrowed from a surveyor friend, but a similar look at your own QTH can be simply made with a construction of right-angled pieces of flat timber with the upright marked off in a scale of degrees plus a ruler or something simple to raise and lower by which means a sighting on your local hills can be made. It is surprising that even with such limited observation a fair amount of reasonable accuracy can be made.

Here it would take far too long to even attempt the descriptions of those antennae which the writer considers "the best" - just don't expect too much from me on 2 Metres!!.



In an accompanying letter to the above article. Cyril adds "Frankly, I think that the rough and ready inverted DELTA that I have up now is proving the most versatile inasmuch that when fed with 600 Ohms feeder (that feeder that no-one seems to want to use these days!) I am able to operate with very reasonable results on all HF bands. Mine just about approximates to a full-wave on 80 Metres. However, it appears to have a very high angle of radiation - over 30 degrees in the horizontal plane and in the vertical the optimum is about 28 degrees. Laurie Mayhead's (G3AQC) article in the May 1974 RadCom seems to confirm this, although the base of mine is only about 8 feet above the ground. Fed with 600 ohms line all one needs is a 4:1 Balun wound on a toroid to tune this antenna from an ATU - balanced side of toroid to feeder and unbalanced side to ATU and ground - the ATU will automatically adjust itself to the actual Zo of the feeder. I tend to do calculations, etc., after the antenna has been proved, and I find that 600 ohms line takes care of just about anything. (Judging by the 80 Metre signals from GW3ASW, the antenna certainly seems to work - Ed.).



BOOK NOW BOOK NOW BOOK NOW BOOK NOW BOOK NOW BOOK NOW BOOK NOW



THE A.G.M. FOR THIS YEAR IS TO BE HELD AGAIN AT CATTERICK AT 14:45 HOURS ON SATURDAY JUNE 28TH 1980 ON THE SAME PATTERN AS LAST YEAR.

THE A.G.M. WILL BE HELD IN NORTH HALL, WITHIN VIMY BARRACKS. VIMY BARRACKS IS CLEARLY SIGNED ON ALL ROADS LEADING TO CATTERICK GARRISON CAMP CENTRE, AND NORTH HALL IS SIGNPOSTED WITHIN THE BARRACKS - THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY AT ALL IN FINDING THE PLACE - FOLLOW THE SIGNS FOR NORTH HALL. IF YOU ARRIVE BEFORE LUNCH RV AT, VIMY SOCIAL CLUB - FOLLOW R.S.A.R.S. SIGNS.

IF YOU ARE A ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION MEMBER AND ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE "OLD COMRADES" WEEK-END PLEASE BOOK OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION IN THE USUAL WAY THROUGH YOUR ASSOCIATION BRANCH SECRETARY. THIS BOOKING WILL COVER YOU FOR LUNCH ON SATURDAY THROUGH TO SUNDAY AFTERNOON. BUT PLEASE LET G3EKL KNOW IF YOU HAVE DONE THIS SO THAT I CAN BE QUITE SURE ABOUT SATURDAY LUNCH FIGURES.

FOR NON-SIGNALS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS NOT INTENDING TO STAY OVERNIGHT ON SATURDAY, IF YOU WISH TO HAVE LUNCH AND TEA, PLEASE BOOK THROUGH G3EKL BY THE END OF MAY. ENCLOSING £1 - 50P TO COVER THE COST.

G4RS WILL BE ACTIVE ON 80 METRES AND G3CIO ON TWO USING THE F.M. CALLING CHANNEL BETWEEN 11:00 and 13:00 HOURS. SO, A TIMETABLE:-

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 11:00 HOURS | : | G4RS AND G3CIO ON 80 METRES AND TWO. |
| 11:30 HOURS | : | VIMY SOCIAL CLUB - BAR AND RECEPTION OPENS. |
| 13:30 HOURS | : | LUNCH |
| 14:45 HOURS | : | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN NORTH HALL. |
| 16:30 HOURS | : | LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN NORTH HALL (TEA). |

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK FOR MEALS IF YOU ARE COMING, THANK YOU.
73 GEN. SEC.

BOOK NOW

(If the Last A.G.M. is anything to go by, this year's should also be an unqualified success. Not only can you have a say in the running of YOUR Society, you will meet a lot of people who are, at the moment, voices on the air, you may well win a raffle prize as well as meeting some old serving comrades amongst the Old Comrades. BUT BOOK NOW - IT'S TOO LATE ON THE DAY. Hope to see as many members as possible at Catterick for the A.G.M.

BOOK NOW

RSARS STORES AND QSL BUREAU.

The Stores section is always ready to help members with their amateur radio requirements; QSL cards, Index cards, Log Books, Ties, etc. and the RSARS QSL Bureau is designed to help members with their RSARS cards. Have you any envelopes at the Bureau?, and are they correctly stamped??.

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU.....
(or, Are you correctly and adequately insured?)

RSARS 1318/BRS 27929

I have just emerged, temporarily, from "Short Funds Crescent", after experiencing a windswept December.

On Sunday December 9th I set off to do my best to ease the frustrations of our long suffering travelling public. It was a particularly foul and dirty night but I was reasonably happy driving my double decker bus between Muswell Hill and Finsbury Park.

I returned home at midnight and, on entering the Court's entrance hall, my eyes clapped on to the whip end of a Hustler Co-linear - leaning up against my flat door. A kind and sympathetic soul had delivered the most momentous message to be received by me in recent years; no written words; not CW or SSB or even FM, but, alas, the message was loud and clear!. Reacting to an inward exclamation of "Oh crumbs, it's come down" (or words to that effect!) I stepped back outside and bravely looked towards the stars. Certainly the monster had collapsed.

In the initial shock period I returned to the bus garage up on the hill to view my roof from a better vantage point. I became aware that something was missing but I had to wait for the dawn to break before the full horror could be revealed.

A miniature tornado had struck the building at 8 p.m. two minutes of Hell for the flat dwellers - with the four chimney stacks collapsing bringing down my replica of the Eiffel Tower. I had had a rather elaborate TV and FM radio aerial installation complete with rotator and, on top of it all, I had mounted the Hustler Co-linear, all of which gave me very good results on TV, broadcast VHF Stereo and 2 Metres.

I returned to the Court to be met with worried glances from my immediate neighbours - I managed to assure them that assistance would soon be available and scuttled inside to imbibe a couple of large whiskies. Come the light of day and I was phoning the Insurance agent and the aerial specialist - in that order!!.

My good friend the aerial specialist arrived during the afternoon and we climbed his long ladders to about 40 feet to assess the situation closely. A nasty sight!. The chimney stacks to our left had moved to the left, collapsing into the roof, which luckily held them and stopped them falling to the ground. My aerial installation had had a long guy fixed into this area, and we suspected that the earlier movement was violent enough to cause the monster to topple. We managed to get all the aerial gear down without any further damage, as to leave it could have been a bit dangerous with the weather still deteriorating and I just could not risk the hardware blowing down. The builders came and within a week had rebuilt all the stacks and repaired all the numerous holes in the roof. All in all, a nasty drama!, At the time of writing we have not heard from anyone about laying blame or apportioning same. We are just hoping that it will be accepted as Storm Damage. My insurance agent has been, he came on the Monday and assured me that my "Contents" policy covered me. I had declared the aerial installation and it had been specifically listed under an "All Risks" section. I had also similar declarations for amateur ~~radio~~ ~~equipment~~ ~~now~~ a little calmer and patiently awaiting the R.A.E. results - not too hopefully as, on reflection, I made some pretty horrific mistakes.

ADOPTED LANGUAGE?.

Cyril, GW3ASW, wonders how many words are in use in the modern Army that are not of English origin. Perhaps "Khaki" is one of the better known ones with "Char" a close second, Any suggestions to the Ed, please.

CQ VS6.

Cyril, G3YSZ, writes to say " Can VS6 stations give a definite time and frequency in order that we may get a QSO with them, please?. I have listened at all times on the last info given from VS6GY to no avail." (Passed to you fellahs out there in. "Honkers" - give us times/frequencies and we'll do our best to line up a few contacts with Blighty- Ed.).

Welcome - Contd.

in the same capacity from 1966 until 1978. Harold considered that enough was enough particularly when the new syllabus was adopted. His main "on the air" interests are CW, especially QRP and Contests. He is also the organiser and license holder (G3YMF) of the School Radio Club at Hereford School, Grimsby. Outside Amateur Radio circles he still plays Table Tennis in the local league and has been a member of the Grimsby Table Tennis Association for the past 30 years. At other times he sails his 11' 6" dinghy (Heron) with his two sons aged 13 and 16. He is a member of the Humbermouth Yacht Club.

RSARS 1422 - LESLIE SIMONS, VK2NLE, 211 HOPETOWN AVENUE, VAUCLUSE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 2050, AUSTRALIA. By the time this is read Les will be well-known to many RSARS members due to his high level of activity around 21.175 MHz and his keenness to work U.K. members. A member of the Ex-G Club, the St. George Amateur Radio Society and the Wireless Institute of Australia, Les enlisted into the Army around June 1941 and did his Basic Training and Trade Training at Prestatyn, North Wales. He passed out as an Instrument Mechanic in December 1941 and was posted overseas (via Catterick) in December 1941. He arrived in Cairo in January 1942 and was stationed at Maadi where he worked at G.H.Q. Cairo on shift work maintaining teleprinters and Secrephones, etc. Just before El Alemain another posting took him to 21 Technical Maintenance Section where he spent a lot of time repairing 'printers, radios, typewriters, watches, etc., plus a host of other jobs that I.M's were expected to do. Les moved up the desert after El Alemain and was with 8th Army HQ in Africa and Malta during planning stages of the invasion of Sicily and Italy. He stayed with 8th Army HQ until it returned to U.K. from Italy and was later with 30th Corps. On completion of hostilities in Europe Les was posted back to the U.K. and spent his last six months with the War Office in London maintaining radio and 'printer links. Present equipment is a Trio/Kenwood TS-820-S and an Atlas 210 (this has since been swapped for a 120-S) and the antenna is a Hy-Gain TH-3. The VK2NLE QTH is on a peninsular at the entrance to Sydney Harbour, about 50 yards from the waters edge with a good take-off to Europe. Other interests include Soccer (Les was the Vice President of the Hakoah Soccer Club of Sydney (name later changed to Sydney City)) also travelling and he has driven across the U.S.A. several times from coast to coast. Les usually manages to get back to the U.K. every two or three years to look up old friends and meet new ones. He is interested in contacting anyone who may have been with 8th Army Signals or at Prestatyn or "anyone who would like to know more about Australia".

RSARS 1423 - WILLIAM NORRIE, G8KOX, 11A PENN ROAD, RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE, DL10 4BE. A "Local to HQ" recruit, William joins us w.e.f. 1st April 1979 and served from 1952 until 1967. Service started at The Army Apprentices School at Harrogate where he trained as a Radio Technician. In 1955 he was posted to Germany where he served with 11th Armoured Division, 4th Infantry Division and the School of Signals (BAOR) at Lemgo and Essen, in the latter Unit as an Instructor. 1959 saw warmer climes and it was out to Singapore, again as an Instructor at the School. Between 1960 and 1962, Bill was with 2 Regiment Royal Artillery both in Malaya and in Colchester. The next two years was spent a little nearer home with M Troop, HQ Squadron of 24th Signal Regiment and then it was abroad again. Not so far this time as he joined the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards first at Aden and then at Benghazi. The following year (1966-67) saw Bill again instructing at 8th Signal Regiment and he finally left the service as a Sergeant Radio Technician (Light) XI in June 1967. The first interest in Amateur Radio was roused at G3HKR at the Army Apprentices School and this was continued with DL2AX at the School of Signals in BAOR. Interest died a little on return to civilian life but was rekindled in 1975 when he decided to take (successfully) the RAE. G8KOX was granted in August 1975. Other interests include RTTY, Microprocessors and Microcomputers. It appears that photography is also another interest as Bill is a member of The Photographic Apparatus Repair Technicians Institute and the Society of Photo Technicians as well as The Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians.

Welcome - Contd.

RSARS 1424 - CAPTAIN (Retd) , WILLIAM A.P. DELLAR, G3IGY, 6 SELBY ROAD, GARFORTH, LEEDS, LS25 1LS. Bill first saw service prior to the War when he joined the Royal Engineers TA on 20th April 1937. He was transferred to The Essex Yeomanry in early 1939 and was "officially" called up when the TA was embodied on 2nd September 1939. He served in the U.K. until the D-Day Landings on 6th June 1944 when he joined 8th Armoured Brigade with whom he stayed until the end of the war in Europe. In 1946 he converted his TA engagement into a Regular Army one and served in Germany until 1948 when he returned to the U.K. He was then with 16th Coast Regiment RA until he went on a Master Gunners Course at the Coast Artillery School at Plymouth. After the 16 months course Bill qualified as a Master Gunner and moved North to Coast Defences, Firth of Forth. When Coast Artillery was disbanded Bill reverted to duty as a WO II and was posted to Cyprus with 188 Radar Battery until 1959 when he returned to the U.K. as a RSM and moved to GW-land to TEGWRA on Anglesey. It was then back to Master Gunner and the posting a lot of Servicemen hope for - Australia where he served with the Weapons Research Establishment at Woomera and Salisbury. 1965 saw a return home and commissioning and a posting to the Hebrides as Technical Quartermaster until he retired in 1967. Bill was first licensed (as G3IGY) in April 1952 and since then he has used it with 'G' 'GW' and 'GM' prefixes. G3IGY had hopes of great things in 1957 which was the International Geophysical Year but posting to Cyprus dashed all hopes. However, Bill "made do" with ZC4GY. During the spell in Australia the call-sign VK5DK was put to good use. Bill tends to use CW only on the HF bands but does "admit" to some 2 Metre FM work, mostly /M. When not making contacts, the time is spent making home brew wine and beer ("Real home brew"). Bill admits to having lost the urge to chase DX but is always interested to talk to anyone via the medium of Amateur Radio.

RSARS 1425 - JON JAMES DOUGHERTY, G4FUT, 49 THOMAS STREET, RYHOPE, SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR. Jon served, during his National Service, as a Gunner Signaller with the Royal Artillery. His kit was stamped with "23369978". Most of the time was spent in the Far East with 95 Independent Battery (Field) attached to the 2nd Battalion The Malay Regiment in 17th Gurkha Division. In 1957-58 Jon was stationed at Bidor in Perak State and the following year at Batu Gaja also in Perak State, He was employed on the maintenance and operation of a number of Nets including those to the R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm. After spending about 20 years as an SWL, Jon decided it was time to get a ticket about 3 years ago. The result was G4FUT. Main interests are in Auroral Propagation on 144 MHz (CW), not just for contacts but for research value. This interest is closely followed by antenna experiments. Station equipment at time of application included DX 401, TS-700-G (with a home made Linear for 150 Watts input on 144 MHz), a Creed 7E/RP and an Autosender together with a home-brew Terminal Unit. Other interests include Sailing (he used to own a 9 Metre Yacht), Foreign travel (with a Bedford Cara-vette) and he usually travels abroad every year, and, finally, foreign languages, ("I can get by in French, Italian, Malayan and Serbo-Croat(!) and am currently teaching myself Dutch and Spanish").

RSARS 1426 - MICHAEL THOMAS IRESON, G3OKB, 15, DIGBY DRIVE, NORTH LUFFENHAM, OAKHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE15 8JB. Mike, who in also a member of the R.A.F. North Luffenham Radio Club, joined 1st Training Regiment in July 1956 and eventually moved to Royal Signal Troop, 47 (GW) Field Regiment RA at Bulford, Church Crookham and Dortmund from August 1957 until June 1959. He was licensed in 1961 but had a 10-year "inactivity" period from 1968 until 1978. He now operates the local Club station as G3OKB/A. Mike notes that he belonged to the Catterick Club during his stay there. (Probably when it was in the old Sergeants Mess at the back of R.H.Q., or in the wooden building alongside the Cary Theatre - Ed.). Other interests include Model Railways and Coins.

RSARS 1427 - MALCOLM BURNSNALL, G3NUB 17 BEECH CLOSE, BUCKINGHAM, MK18 1PG, BUCKS. Malcolm was first licensed in 1959 and the following year joined the Merchant

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Navy as Radio Officer, until 1962. From 1974 until 1976 he served with the Royal Marines Reserve, Commando Company, City of London when he transferred to 5 (Banbury) Squadron of 39 Signal Regiment (V) with whom he is still serving. Malcolm goes on to say "Not very active at the moment having been driven into one end of the garage by an expanding family. Hope soon to provide more room and get on the air again. I am principally interested in HF CW". Other interests include Long Distance Running and Gardening. G3NUB is a Technician Engineer and a member of M.I.T.E. as well as a member of RSGB.

RSARS 1428 - NICHOLAS, WILLIAM TRY, A 8991, "ROSEWOOD", WINDSOR ROAD, GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, SL9 7ND. Nicholas joined Oundle School C.C.F. in 1976 and, since then, has spent 2 years in the Signals Section and risen to the rank of Cadet CQMS. He passed Classification in December 1977, Assistant Instructors Test in the Summer of 1978 and Certificate 'T' in April 1979. He has been interested in Amateur Radio for about 3½ years and sat the RAE last December, a venture in which he was successful. He is now working on the Dots and the Dashes in order to go straight to a G4 call. Other interests include Sailing, Swimming, Shooting, Fishing and Photography. Nicholas is also a member of the RSGB, ISWL, BARTG and AMSAT (UK).

RSARS 1429 - MICHAEL JOHN CRANE, DA1MJ, 2 ARMoured DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON, B.F..P.O. 46. Mike started Service life at Harrogate from 1962-63 and after Operator Training visited several Units both in the UK and in Germany. Other Units include Air Portable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, 28th Signal Regiment, 8th Signal Regiment, etc. He has always been interested in Amateur Radio but never got around to sitting the R.A.E. Iain Morris corrected this when they were serving in Malta together and the exam was taken and passed. However, Mike did not manage to get on the air in 9H1 due mainly to the fact that it took so long to get the license issued ("the authorities send a copy of the TX circuit diagram to many Government Departments before they inspect the station. We ran out of time!!). DA1MJ is now on the point of buying a Yaesu FT-7-B. Mike is keen on CW and most sports.

RSARS 1430 - PAUL DAVID LUTMAN, EAST UNDERBANKS FARM, REETH ROAD, RICHMOND, DL10 4SE. Paul completes his application form with a large amount of detail which, unfortunately, we cannot produce here in toto for security reasons. However, he did serve with Royal Signals supplying communications in Northern Ireland, Antigua and Honduras. He later served with 18 Squadron at R.A.F. Gutersloh where he worked with Kit Hall, G3EMX, when Kit was NCO i/c 'J' Troop. Paul has a 2200-GX and a home-made Slim Jim as well as a half-wave Dipole. When not engaged with his other interests (Car mechanics and Do-it-Yourself) he is interested in contacting any other radio amateur enthusiasts.

RSARS 1451 - WILLIAM E. EASON, BRS 41534, 36 POTTERS FIELD, HARLOW, ESSEX. Bill first saw service in February 1940 as a Signaller with The Seaforth Highlanders but in March 1941 a move took him to the Special Communications Units with whom he served until 1946 during which time he was with 21st Army Group Forward HQ, HQ 12th Army Group (U.S. Forces) (Special Attachment), and S.E.A.C. HQ in Calcutta. Bill is a member of the RSGB and The Harlow and District Radio Society. He is employed by I.T T Electrical Products in Harlow as a Calibration Engineer. If possible, Bill would like to hear from any past members of S.C.U., G.C.H.Q. between the years 1939 and 1946.

RSARS 1432 - JOHN WILLIAM SMYTH, GM3LTD, 148 WHITFIELD AVENUE, DUNDEE, DD4 OAZ, SCOTLAND. John started service life in a light blue uniform as a National Service Wireless Operator in The Royal Air Force. This was from 1956 until 1958 and this was followed by 6 years in the R.A.F. Reserve. In 1964 John changed the uniform colour and joined 51st Highland Signal Regiment T.A. for three years then changing to 29 Engineer Brigade Signal Troop for the next 2 years. Finally, in 1969 he joined 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) and is

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still serving in this Unit. He is employed as a Radio Telegraphist. On the amateur side of life he is mainly interested in CW working and currently uses a Panda Cub into a Joystick antenna on the verandah. Standby TX is 40 Watt Xtal controlled Hallicrafters with a Codar CR-66 RX with a PR-30 Pre-selector. More active interests include skiing (John is a member of A.S.A.), Electronics, and being a drummer in the Mackenzie Caledonian Pipe Band. John is also very interested in the training of R. Tg operators within the T.A.V.R.

RSARS 1433 - ERIC JOHN BLAKE, G4HWQ, CROFT HOUSE, CARR LANE, EAST HESLERTON, MALTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, YO17 8RP. Eric, who is a member of the Scarborough Amateur Radio Society was at the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury from 1963 until 1965 (-----Intentional Deletion-----) finally leaving the Service in 1970. The RAE was taken in December 1978 and the license, G4HWQ, was issued in February of 1979. Other interests include RayNet, Photography, Scuba Diving and Micro-computers (particularly the PET).

RSARS 1434 - ROGER THOMPSON, G8SII, 642 SIGNAL TROOP, GIBRALTAR, B.F.P.O. 52. 19 October 1969 saw the start of Royal Signals Service for Roger since when he has visited Germany, Cyprus, Oman (Masirah and Salalah), Belgium and now Gibraltar. Roger obtained the call-sign G8SII and will, no doubt, be looking for RSARS VHF contacts on return to the U.K. He is a member of R.S.G.B. and a keen Stamp Collector.

RSARS 1435 - KEITH DEREK FAUX, G3BSF, 122 MAYFIELD AVENUE, LONDON, N12 9JE. With G3BSF it all started at Alexandra Palace. Keith visited the RSARS Stand and found that he was eligible for membership by virtue of his National Service days as 19152886 1st Trades Training Regiment at Catterick, followed by Cyrenaica Signals Regiment in Benghazi from June 1948 until March 1949. Keith served as a Radio Mechanic and was licensed as MD1L whilst in Benghazi. During his stay at Catterick he joined the Catterick Radio Club and sends along a photo-copy of his membership certificate (No. 28!) signed by the then Hon. Sec. Alan Hall (wonder what happened to him? - Ed.). G3BSF is not very active at the moment as he is very busy with Scouting activities but can occasionally be heard on 10 Metre SSB and 2 Metre FM. Mainly interested in Portable work with an FT-7 on the HF bands and an IC-215 on VHF. Keith is not professionally engaged in Electronics being a Statistician, which accounts for him being a Fellow of both The Royal Statistical Society and The Institute of Statisticians. He is also a member of The Post Office HQ Amateur Radio Group and the Southgate Radio Club.

RSARS 1436 - DAVID MICHAEL GASSER, 5 WARWICK CLOSE, CATTERICK GARRISON, N. YORKSHIRE. David is quite brief on his application form but tells us that it was in 1963 that he joined the R.A.C. Junior Leaders Regiment and left there in 1966 to join the X Royal Hussars. He is now a Sergeant with the Royal Hussars and has been with them for the last 10 years. Other interests: Electronics and Fishing.

RSARS 1437 - ANTHONY RAYMOND JEFFS, 18 MONTGOMERY ROAD, CATTERICK CAMP, N. YORKSHIRE. Anthony is a WO I Bandmaster at Catterick and has worked with the Corps many times but "only in my capacity as a Bandmaster and the service I could provide musically". He has just taken up radio as a hobby and is hoping to glean some information from members of RSARS. Other interests include woodwork, music, general do-it-yourself and knocking small white balls into seemingly too small holes - hence his membership of the Catterick Garrison Golf Club. He is also a member of The Kneller Hall Club. He hopes to meet many RSARS and RSGB members.

RSARS 1438 - DAVID BORLEY, G4CAX, 95 MEADOW LANE, MOULTON, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE, CH9 8QQ. In 1958 joined. 4th Training Regiment, Royal Signals and completed his training as a Cipher Operator at Preston Barracks, Brighton. Subsequent trips took in the sights of 9V1 and VS6. It was being an ex-Merchant Navy Operator that "kindled the light" and frequent

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NFD activity with the Mid Cheshire Amateur Radio Society led to taking the necessary action for a full ticket. Main interest is 2 Metre Mobile and Portable work and CW on the HF bands. No particular other interests are listed but David would like to hear from any other Cipher Operators of 1956-1959 vintage.

RSARS 1439 - ARTHUR OSWALD WRIGHT, 11 RUGBY ROAD, MABLETHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE, LN12 1LD. Although the application form comes from Mablethorpe it is accompanied by a letter headed Department of National Defence, Canada and is signed by Lieut. Col. J. Roberts, Officer Commanding No.3 District Depot, thanking Arthur for his services in The Royal Canadian Engineers. Arthur does not give dates but he served with 5 Field. Company Royal Canadian Engineers and. 30 Field Company, R.C.E. He completed Signal Training at Farnborough as a D.O. Grade II. After this, he served 10 years with the Royal Observer Corps.

RSARS 1440 - JOHN WHITMORE, GD4IHB, "GLION DARRAGH", BALLACURRY ROAD, GREEBA, ST. JOHNS, ISLE OF MAN. John was 14103553 and if you were trained as a Radio Mechanic at 1 T.T.B., Catterick in Loos Lines or Vimy Lines around 1945 until 1948, then you probably met John who served there as a Sergeant Instructor. John was licensed on 23rd May 1979 and keeps the call-sign active with a Trio TS-820 and a Trapped Dipole. Previously a keen cricketer ("but not active now") and keen on the amateur theatre. John would like to hear from/meet/contact any ex member of Cadre at 1 T.T.R. during the above period.

RSARS 1441 - FRANK SCAIFE, G4CNP, MAVERY COURT, GRASMERE ROAD, BROMLEY, KENT, BR1 4BE. For seven years Frank served as a Guardsman Regimental Signaller with 1st Coldstream Guards from 1923 until 1931 when he joined the City of London Police. This spell terminated in 1956 but during that time (1950 - 1956) he served as Communications Officer. Also during this time there was a break (from 1943 until 1946) during which time Frank was commissioned as a Captain, General List, and. served AMG Italy and North Africa. During 1945 and 1946 he was a Communications Officer with Venezia Civilian Police. From 1956 until 1971 Frank stayed with communications as a Radio Operator in Banking Security in the City of London. He sat, and passed, the RAE and Morse Test in 1974.

RSARS 1442 - B.D.S.M. MICHAEL JOHN PICKAR, 17 ROWAN SQUARE, CATTERICK GARRISON, NORTH YORKSHIRE. Mike joined the Army in September 1971 and served 3 years Boys Service with the Light Infantry Depot at Shrewsbury. He then joined the band of the 3rd Light Infantry in Germany. The following year saw him on a years course at The Royal Military School of Music and it was from here that Mike joined the 3rd Light Infantry Band at Catterick. Since being stationed at Catterick Mike has completed a tour of six weeks in Kenya, a three months tour in Northern Ireland and a six month tour in Cyprus. He hopes to be back in Cyprus for a 2 year "stint" this year. Mike runs a Mosley CM1 Receiver and is keen to meet other SWLs. Other interests include Motor Mechanics and Card Tricks.

RSARS 1445 - GEOFF JOHNSON, VE3KID, 51 ELVASTON AVENUE, NEPEAN, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K2G 3X6. Geoff served as a National Serviceman from 5th January 1956 until 2nd. January 1958 ("Release Group 56.01"). He trained at 7 Training Regiment at Catterick moving to 3rd Training Regiment for training as an Operator Wireless and Line. This was followed by a tour with 6th Armoured Division Signal Regiment at Bunde, Germany. Keen to meet other ex-OWLs or Operators, Geoff took out his amateur license in Canada on 9th Jan.1979 and progressed to Advanced status 13 days later. He operates mainly on 20 Metres below the American 'Phone Band most evenings from 0001 - 0005 GMT (Not sure about those times, but that is what is given - Ed.). When not on the air Geoff sings baritone with The Capital City Chorus Barbershop Chapter in Ottawa.

RSARS 1444 - WALTER ALFRED GARDENER, G3HRV, 38 BRACKLEY STREET, WORSLEY, NEAR MANCHESTER, M28 5GX. Walter's service starts way back in 1922 when he

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joined the 2nd Battalion The Loyal Regiment at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, where he was in HQ Company Signals Section as a Private. From 1924 until 1932 he served with D Company, The Loyals (Territorials) as a Sergeant L.A. Gun Instructor. He was also a Class III Physical Training Instructor from 1924 until 1932 and a Platoon Sergeant. G3HRV was licensed on September 9th 1951 and has been held continuously since. Walter has also seen considerable service with The Red Cross and The St. John's Ambulance Brigade. He is now getting an interest in RTTY.

RSARS 1445 - JEFF ALAN PROCTOR, 26 BROOME STREET, WEST STREET ESTATE, OLDHAM, OL9 6TD. Jeff joined Penney Squadron at The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate on 13th September 1977 and until 9th August 1979 trained as a Radio Telegraphist A III. He was then posted a bit farther South for further training which is continuing. Jeff holds C and G Telecommunications Operator Parts I and II and became interested in Amateur Radio about 2 years ago. At this time he was using an Eddystone 840C and received much help from Rob Colclough, G8RDI. It is hoped to have a Yaesu rig and a CL-22 ATU on the end of the 160 ft Long Wire in the very near future. Jeff also has an interest in .22 Shooting, Sailing and Cricket and is interested also in contacting any members in the Oldham and/or Chadderton areas.

RSARS 1446 - STANLEY E. ("HANK") HINCKS, G3ASM, 2 DOWMHOLME GROVE, HARTBURN, STOCKTON-ON-TEES. CLEVELAND, TS18 5HD. Hank, who lists membership of RSGB, AMSAT, FOC, HSC, CHC FHC and MIM, served 7 years (1939 - 1946) in light blue, with the R.A.F. In 1948 he joined the ARMY Cadet Force and became Signal Officer with 2nd Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders A.C.F. holding a Territorial Commission Class B. Many ways have been described relating to how people became interested in Amateur Radio but, perhaps, Hank's is unique - "by sitting on the sea wall opposite Portsmouth Harbour and reading the Lamp Morse". This led to taking up radio but the War intervened, but in 1946 GM3ASM was obtained and this call was operated in the Glasgow area for about 20 years. 8 years were spent as a RSGB Newsreader ("the first of the many"). Hank is mainly interested in CW (as the FOC and HSC would indicate) and he is now active on all bands Top Band to 2 Metres including satellite working when not on the air Hank is often in it as he is a fairly active pilot. Not a keen beer drinker - but mention Pink Gins and Camparis and that's a different matter. Interested in contacting anybody - preferably CW operators.

RSARS 1447 - L/CPL RAYMOND ROBLEY, 19 WILLOW AVENUE, CATTERICK GARRISON, N. YORKSHIRE. Another brief application form (with which it is suspected RSARS 1442 was connected) from Raymond who is also a member of the 3rd Light Infantry Band. A keen Short Wave Listener he has been with the band since 1971. He states no other interests other than 'Music'.

RSARS 1448 - JOHN VICTOR PEARSON, G3SNY, "WEST END", 79 BELLE VUE, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS. DY8 5DB. It was on October 15th 1942 that saw John join The General Service Corps for Basic Training at Towyn. On completion of Basic Training it was a move to Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon for a 13 weeks M.T. Course. This was followed by 6 weeks at Catterick Camp in 1943 before moving on to 90th H.A.A. Workshops R.E.M.E. Service in N.W. Europe followed before John was discharged as War Disabled in 1947. He now runs an SB-102 with a Quad for 15 Metres and a Trapped Dipole for 80 - 10 Metres. Outside Amateur Radio. John likes reading and visiting historic locations.

RSARS 1449 - NICK CARTER. G3PEC, 107 CRANFORD LANE, HESTON, HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX. Here we welcome a re-enlistment to the RSARS ranks although, Nick has added a few figures to his old number which was somewhere in the 0050's before. Nick served as a National Serviceman ("Group 52.23") from 1952 until 1954 and continued to serve for a further 6 years with Army Phantom Signals Regiment. As far as the amateur bands are concerned Nick has been QRT for about 10 years - Welcome back!!. Other interests include Bird Watching.

THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR (Continued from "Mercury" No. 64).

ROBIN/G8LT/0290.

I still have some photographs of the successor to the "Knife-Box" transmitter. It was my first attempt at rack and panel construction with a wood frame rack and ply-wood panels painted with aluminium paint and with about six wooden chassis. All the lower panels were set aside for the heavy power supplies and the modulator. The RF part still consisted of that faithful combination of 59/46 but had an RK-20 large pentode as the PA which was plate/screen modulated by a pair of PX-25's. The tank coils, which still exist, were of heavy polished copper tube. The Windom feeder was simply clipped on to the appropriate turn to give the desired loading. An ATU seemed superfluous and only occasionally did a long suffering neighbour pop in to tell me that he or she had heard me coming through on their "wireless set". TVI had not even been thought of then, and I was usually able to cure BCI problems with a mica compression trimmer with a coil wound round it tuned to the band I used and put in series with the aerial lead of the set. These simple filters could be pre-tuned in the shack and usually did the trick.

AM 'phone being the 'norm', you were allowed to let your visitors talk over the air for which they did not have to be license holders. I well remember introducing the mother of "Hefty" Taylor, VU2FS, to her son in Calcutta so that she could have a good chat to her "one and only".

Whilst there was nothing other than CW and AM Phone to be heard there were developments taking place all the time. I remember a small but dedicated band of enthusiasts under Dr. W.B. Lewis at Cambridge who, as part of the training for Royal Signals, had formed an experimental section with the encouragement of J.A. Ratcliffe, where we developed communication on 60 cms using Acorn triodes and pentodes. These were incorporated into super-regenerative transceivers with battery boxes of motor cycle batteries and dry cells. The aerial arrays were stacked Yagis mounted on 5-foot stakes which you carried around and pointed as nearly as possible at the distant station. The elements were 14 swg bare telephone wire, all held together with lots of solder. The highlight of months of work and testing was to get a solid phone contact between a portable station on the cliffs at Fairlight, Hastings across Dungeness to another on the cliffs at Folkestone; quite something on 60/66 cms in those days, we felt. The actual wavelength was measured by the well-tried "Lecher Line" method. I still have some of the acorn tubes - what a wonderful job they did in their time.

My first VFO appeared in 1938 but, as it was mandatory for you to know your frequency, a 100 K/cs crystal bar standard was obtained and provided good spots on the receiver dial. Valves such as the Eimac 35-T made their appearance and PA efficiency improved enormously. Mercury vapour rectifiers in the high voltage supplies were usually used and the 866 was a splendid example. The purple glow flashing on and off under the bench when working CW was most satisfying!

One of the memorable things was the way one used to be able to identify people by their "fist" on CW. Not only could one recognise the operator on a straight "pump handle" key, but in those days there were no electronic keyers for making automatic dots and dashes, but the "bug" key with its spring loaded weights was the "in" thing. There were operators all over the world who were not only able to keep up a steady stream of readable morse but managed to add a form of emotion and expression that one does not encounter today. My old Kenco bug still exists and many is the time when its speed has been slowed down just that bit by the crocodile clip outside the weights!

In those days, unlike today, components of the type we all used were available from various sources and parts ordered by mail really did arrive promptly. There was great satisfaction in mounting a large polished copper tube inductance on a pair of beehive stand-off porcelain insulators. Names like Eddystone, Raymart and others spring to mind. Power transformers one often wound oneself and some of mine will still meet their purpose to this day. Aerials were not all that different in principle to those used in this era of black boxes. The End Fed Wire was popular and you got up as much as you had room to. Dipoles were usually fed with 75 Ohms Twin Feeder as co-axial cable - as we know it today - was only available after the War. If you wanted a rotary beam - you made it, and then turned it by hand or by a collection of bicycle sprockets and chain. I

THOUGHTS OF YESTERYEAR - Contd.

well remember the " Plumbers Delight" which appeared in QST before the War and which has recently been resurrected. I am not aware if the Quad had been developed in the form we use it now but aerials like the W8JK were popular. I recall, and the Log confirms it, that I had two 20 Metre dipoles strung up in line each fed at the middle by a separate feeder and I could ring the changes by swapping the feeder connections so that they could be run in or out of phase. This arrangement served me well for quite some time. For the lower frequency bands, the Windom took a lot of beating. My first sampling of the joys of Ten Metres must have been during Sun-spot Cycle No. 17. We had the 160, 80, 40, 20, 10 and 5 Metre bands only so when 10 Metres opened up the excitement was enormous. Frequency control was generally crystal both here and overseas in W, VK and ZL. The night and early hours were full of fun and many times did I and the late 2FL pound the key at my home for hours on end. One of the great DX hounds of those times was Ham Whyte, 6WY, whose signal could be heard in the very early morning. I well remember our race to make the first contact between the U.K. and Papua. It would be immodest to say who got there first!!!.

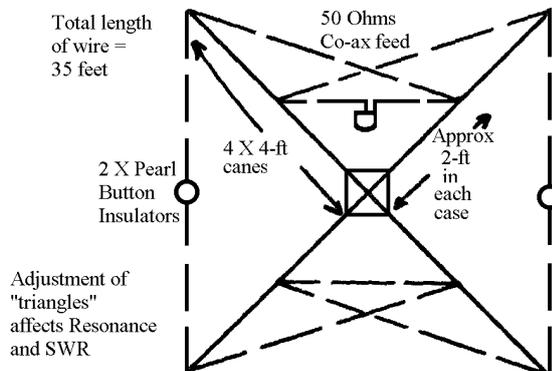
The Five Metre band was the scene for transceiver activity and the older members may recall the famous Eddystone design. Receivers were super-regenerative and the transceiver folk were inclined to chase each other in frequency as the received signal really decided on what frequency you transmitted. The receivers themselves radiated like fun, and frequency measurement was by Lecher Line or a simple absorption wavemeter. Some of us managed to control the station at 6UW by means of a 5 Metre link situated about a mile away.

Came the outbreak of War and the letter dated 31st August 1939 drawing my attention to the notice in the London Gazette which "determined" the license and was shortly to be followed by a GPO green van which removed my beloved transmitter. (I still have the list of items the GPO removed - it brings back vivid memories!).



THE VK2ABQ ANTENNA - MORE FROM MEMBERS

(Two designs of the VK2ABQ have been sent along by members - GW3QN/0542 and G3LZR/0594 - and are produced here for member's information. It would appear that this is fairly easy to construct antenna which gives good results. - Ed.).



From GW3QN. "I can add a little to the VK2ABQ saga. I made the shortened version for 10 Metres, to be used indoors as I am not allowed outside aerials on this estate!! I have slung it from a cup-hook in the ceiling of my operating room and is so arranged that I can rotate it through 360°.

My rig is the QRP (note this - Ed.) FT-7 and I list some of the SSB contacts I have made since last April along with pretty well every European country. When 10 Metres is open, as at present, it is possible to make satisfactory contacts using quite low power as long as the antenna is reasonably good.

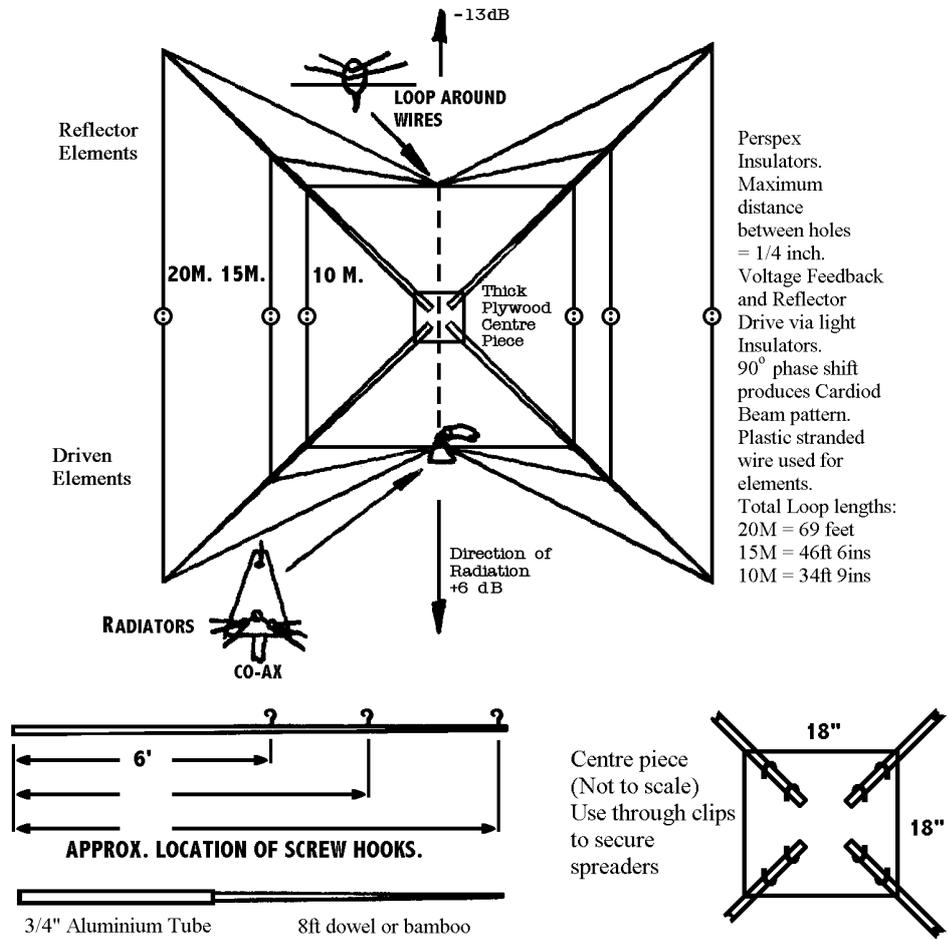
"The December 1978 "RadCom" gives details of the shortened version as used here. Four 4-ft lengths of 3/4-inch canes were fixed on to a 5-inch square of insulating material and plastic covered bell-wire wound around the ends of the canes and held in place with sticky tape, as are the cross-over points half way along the canes. I made a hole in the middle of the centre piece to drop the 50-

THE VK2ABQ ANTENNA - MORE FROM MEMBERS - Contd.

Ohms co-ax through. I rarely call "CQ", it is usually a waste of time, but I search around and call the stations I wish to contact. It does work sometimes!!. 10 Metre SSB contacts include: EA8, EA9, JA, JF, JR, JR, CT2, CT3, EL2, IH9, VP2, 7X5, 9H1, CN8, PP1, PY2, PT7, PY7, ZL, C5, ZD7, 5L7, 4X4, KV4, 9Q5, HH2, 5V4, VO1, YJ8, W5/PJ8, W1 - W0, KL7, VE1, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7 and just about every European country. (Not bad for a QRP rig and an indoor antenna! - Ed.). I found it easy enough to build (and I'm in my mid-Seventies!!!) but it is important to make careful adjustments here and there and to keep it symmetrical".

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

From G3LZR/0594. "The construction of the antenna is quite simple, and I am at a loss to know how to make much of an article out of it!, except to say that where the hooks are screwed into the bamboos, it is policy to bind the canes on either side of the hooks, and apply several coats of varnish to weather-proof the whole antenna. The members of the local Works Club recently constructed a VK2ABQ from the following sketch".



If aluminium is used for part of spreaders, metal work must NOT be bonded together or to other metal-work , but must be left floating.

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd. From "Mercury" No. 64.

Suppression of Radio Interference from Electric Motors.

The step by step procedure outlined at the beginning of this chapter pinpoints which electric motors are causing radio interference. Suppression of this interference depends a great deal upon the location of the equipment, the severity of the interference and the frequency range over which suppression is required.

The simplest and most economical form of suppression is the use of capacitors to bypass noise currents to earth; on small electric motors this is achieved by fitting a one microfarad capacitor between each terminal and earth as shown in Fig.8. A suitable capacitor for this purpose is Lucas Part No.78112. Where severe interference still persists the only cure is full suppression by filtering and screening.

Modern mass production techniques and the wide range of motors available means that full suppression over a wide band of frequencies is a very time consuming and expensive task. Individual specialist treatment is required and specific filters and screens must be produced for each motor. It is not economically feasible to provide a wide band suppression filter for every type of motor on the market and when this problem is further complicated by the wide variety of locations of susceptible equipment, the owner will realise the need for specialist treatment. This should be sought either from the manufacturer of the interference producing equipment, or from one or the firms specialising in radio interference suppression.

Suppression of interference generated by propeller shafts.

Mention has been made of the propeller shaft as a source of radio interference and in some craft this may present a real problem. Interference is generated by the rotation of the shaft in its bearings, and grounding the shaft to earth will effect a cure. A spring loaded phosphor-bronze earthing brush running on a bright clean part of the shaft will collect the stray currents and this brush should be earthed to the common earth by low impedance joints. Do not earth this brush to underwater fittings such as 'A' brackets, etc., as such action may cause electrolytic corrosion of these components. Advice regarding the supply and design of such an earthing brush may be obtained from one of the specialist firms dealing with corrosion protection.

Marine Radio and generator equipment installation.

Whether the suppression of radio interference is simple and straightforward or difficult and complicated depends a great deal upon where the radio equipment is situated in the craft and the arrangement of cabling supplying the electrical services. Marine radio equipment should therefore be installed according to the following recommendations:

1. The aerial and lead-in should be located as far from the electromagnetic influences as possible. This can include rigging where this is radiating interference picked up from another source.
2. Aerials should be efficiently tuned to give the best possible signal to noise ratio.
3. Full advantage should be taken of the screening effect of any earthed metal between the equipment and any possible sources of interference.
4. The radio supply mains should be short in length, run as far as possible away from electrical machinery and have the minimum voltage drop.
5. The radio should be located as far as possible away from sources of interference and earthed with a low impedance conductor to the common earth point, which ideally should be a plate fixed to the underside of the vessel below the waterline.

Having made certain that the radio and other electronic equipment has been efficiently installed in accordance with the foregoing recommendations, the next step is to effectively suppress the battery charging system to BS 1597/1975 with either the 508 or 446 suppression systems.

MARINE RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION - Contd. From "Mercury" No. 64.

The 446 or 508 units should be located as close to the generator as possible and certainly no more than six feet away. Select a suitable position for the suppression box; this should be mounted vertically on a bulkhead or panel, with 300mm minimum clear air space above the box. The location should be free from other cable runs in order to avoid impressing interference by coupling or inductance upon the filtered circuit. This is of such importance in achieving successful suppression that it may be necessary to re-route existing cable runs if they are sufficiently close to cause coupling. The distance involved depends upon the strength of the electromagnetic field but normally speaking 450mm should prove a safe minimum distance from the box and its terminals.

The next stage is to screen the inter-connecting leads from the generator to the suppression box. When completed, the screening should be continuous between ferrule entries on both generator and suppression box ends. Lucas Marine alternators are specially designed with ferrule entry and permit the screening braid to be clamped between the inner and outer sleeve and finally soldered in position thus effectively bonding the screen to the alternator body and thus to earth. Both 508 and 446 suppression boxes are fitted with ferrules and the same procedure of clamping this end of the screening braid between inner and outer sleeves and soldering in position should be followed.

Alternator output and field leads are then fed through the screening and connected to the appropriate terminals and finally the threaded locking sleeve at either end should be screwed firmly in position. When finished, the screening should be physically and electrically continuous and the ends should be securely bonded with a clean low impedance joint to the frame of the generator and the suppression box. If the existing generator is not supplied with ferrule entry then a metallic sleeve has to be made up to cover the terminals and the screened braid soldered or clamped to this sleeve. Additionally the sleeve has to be electrically bonded to the alternator body.

The screened harness thus formed is now attached to the bulkhead or panel over the shortest possible path. Brass or tinned brass saddles should be used, positioned at 150mm intervals, and one lug of each saddle earthed to common earthing tape. Bonds should be clean and tight to ensure low impedance joints and the mating metal surfaces close together in the electrochemical series to prevent corrosion developing and resulting in high impedance joints.

The 508 and 446 suppression systems designed and manufactured by Lucas Marine will effectively suppress interference to BS 1597/1975 fitted in accordance with the foregoing recommendations. The wide variety of marine electrical systems prevents the giving of exact instructions for each system, but the information contained in this article regarding the nature of radio interference and its suppression should enable the boat owner or his electrician to install an effective system for his own craft.

(To be continued)



MORE SCHOOL-PERSON HOWLERS.

- "The process of turning steam into water again is called conversation".
- "The earth makes a resolution every 24 hours".
- "The cuckoo does not lay it's own eggs".
- "Sound is a rapid series of osculations".
- "The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects".
- "Dew is formed on the leaves when the Sun shines down on them and makes them perspire".
- "Sea water has the formula C H₂O".
- "For a dog bite: put the animal away for a few days, If it has not recovered, kill it".
- "For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead".

SILENT KEY

LT. COL. JOHN ANDREW MORAN MBE GJ4BSL

John Moran died on 10th May 1979. He had a long and interesting military career which started with service in the Northumberland Fusiliers and by the time he was 18 he was serving in Afghanistan. He trained as a Signaller and his family still have the original heliograph mirror he used. As well as communications John studied foreign languages and became an Urdu interpreter. Keen on sport he became Regimental Boxing Champion and excelled at Hockey, Rugby, Athletics and Shooting. He later moved to India and specialised in Ordnance and became an expert in armaments and explosives. He left the Army to take up an appointment with Indian Ordnance with the civilian equivalent rank of Major. At the outbreak of War he re-joined the Army and saw considerable service in the front lines in Burma. After the War John returned to India where he maintained his interest in sport eventually participating in the All India Tennis Tournament. He was an active amateur during his post-war service in India. He settled in Jersey when he left the Service and took up employment in the Electrical Wholesale business from which he eventually retired in 1976 at age of 73. Amateur Radio has lost a respected member and the Society is the poorer by the passing of one of our all-too-few representatives of the Channel Islands. To his widow and two sons Mike and Terry the Society offers its sincere condolences. R.I.P.

CITIZEN'S BAND.

JOHN DOUGLAS/ON8KA/1022.

(Much has already been written, and spoken, about Citizen's Band Radio. John adds his comments for your perusal, consideration and possible comment. - Ed.)

While I personally have no axe to grind and no great interest in using any proposed CB Service, I feel there is a valid argument in favour of it. The RF spectrum is a natural resource like sunlight, fossil fuels and, of particular relevance to the argument, rivers and seas. It is generally accepted that the public at large have a right to exploit these natural resources; they may use greenhouses and solar heating installations, many burn coal and oil for heating and power (having paid for the cost of extracting the resources from the ground), many swim and sail, subject only to a few sensible restrictions that do not invalidate the basic right to exploit the resource.

An analogy may be drawn between the electro-magnetic spectrum and rivers and seas. Both can be used for communications; transport of materials and people on the one hand, information and ideas on the other. Both can be used for pleasure and entertainment. Both can be exploited on a large scale by commercial interests to provide useful services and enjoyment to individuals who are prepared to pay, not for the privilege as the cliché has it, but for the cost plus profit involved.

The point is this: the natural resource that is represented by the sea can be exploited by anybody and the parallel with radio communication holds. Commercial organisations, whether in radio or waterborne communications, run large, powerful and dangerous equipment in the form of transmitters on the one hand and ships on the other, and are rightly subject to stringent regulations regarding operation, competence of staff, etc. Private individuals with smaller and less powerful equipment may be subject to less stringent regulations. However, no authority to my knowledge denies an individual the right to paddle about in a canoe or a rowing boat as long as he does no harm to anyone else. Swimmers are unlikely to be jailed and if fishermen are subject to regulations these are generally aimed at protecting the species rather than giving MacFisheries a monopoly.

Thus, it seems illogical and indefensible to deny people that right to use low-power CB equipment with a limited range. The resource should be available to all, subject only to reasonable non-interference with other services.

CITIZEN'S BAND.

The practical aspects are something else. These include the frequency band to be used, the mode, control of transmissions and licensing. The last is probably the easiest because it is unnecessary. Levy a once-and-for-all license tax, if you must, on the sale of each unit, based on a probable five-year equipment life. It is doubtful if it is worthwhile trying to impose any control on transmissions as, although it is quite feasible to arrange for each transceiver to transmit an automatic identification signal, we would then be back in the position of having cumbersome and expensive registration of authorised users and the yahoos would always disable the identification system, obtain stolen equipment, or even build their own.

Turning to the problem of frequency and mode, in view of the low occupancy of the 10M band, it would be difficult to object to some 250 KHz being given up to a public service. Surely the remainder of the band is sufficient for amateur needs? The real objection, of course, is the extended propagation at sunspot maxima and this is probably sufficient reason to rule out the use of these frequencies. It will be necessary to find space somewhere in the VHF band, as the UHF band is unlikely to be satisfactory because of the low range due to obstructions. It is possible that re-engineering of television Band I into three 8MHz channels will release 41 - 44.5 MHz which, in the I.T.U. Radio Regulations is allocated to the Fixed and Mobile services on a secondary basis. The problems of anomalous propagation, although reduced, might still be significant, and it may be necessary to look elsewhere. At all events, the frequencies are there it is merely a matter of adjusting priorities and persuading the present users to give them up!

As to mode, assuming the mass-market equipment, which is what we mean by CB Radio, FM is probably the most attractive. However, mass-produced crystal-controlled or synthesised SSB equipment would not be overly expensive and would, of course, give greater spectrum economy.

To summarise the general public has a right to a CB service. This service should be given allocation in the VHF band; transmitters should be limited to, say, 2 Watts and there should be an absolute minimum of regulation and control. If they mess it up with obscenities, jamming or pop music that is their look-out: that kind of problem is only symptomatic of an overall national malaise that spreads into many areas and can be treated only at the roots.

John Douglas/ON8KA

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PUZZLE CORNER.

A recent visit to the office shared by P 1954 showed that he had, at last succeeded in getting that long week-end pass from the Colonel. On his desk was a tatty piece of paper saying "Contact my deputy 454 for most recent code". We rang extension 454 - and got the Deputy Director of Army Underwater Cross Country Runners. Obviously it was a wrong number, The OWL (with his usual smirk) suggested it might be RSARS 454. It was!. Alf then produced the latest code with the information that the message had been dropped by an escaping agent, and all he knew was that "N" did NOT equal "I". The message read:

GBAKNGKY TNXS KB PLLD RLGNFYL V NO RLVAQ HBJJBZLS (.) N ALZ OLLKVAQ
DJNGL VY XLCFVXLS (.) KXI RJFL YLELA ZLSALYSNI (.) YVQALS KTL ZBJH (.)

The OWL looked at the message for a few seconds, "Ah yes," he said "Quite simple. The bracketed full stops are actually full stops in the final message". Drop a line to the Editor if you can solve the above code.

(Seriously, folks, this is one of several "codes" sent along by Alf. They were produced as an exercise for school-children and, apparently, they found these early ones too easy!!!. Later ones get a little more difficult. If we get some correct answers, we'll try you on the harder ones -Ed.)

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From: Mike Hollebon, G4HOL/609, Falmouth, Cornwall. "..... I do not have any "articles" to contribute to "Mercury", but perhaps I could stir up a hornet's nest by expressing my feelings about Contests. Like thousands of other followers of the hobby my peak operating times are at week-ends, as I do labour for five days in my place as "breadwinner" for a growing family.

Now, I pride myself on being extremely reasonable and rational and I will be the first to admit that contests on congested amateur bands push the operators, electronics and organisational expertise to the limit, and further the development of radio to immeasurable lengths. I also believe that contest operators are a minority group, but by past custom and practice have gradually managed to dominate and overwhelm the majority group. The majority group is difficult to label, but probably comprises serious experimenters, serious conversationalists who enjoy a QSO for its own sake, rather than the "rubber stamp" operators and curious "CQ Merchants" taking a "lucky dip" into the ether to see what results.

(Now for the punch line!). I feel that there is room for both groups in our spectral allocations, but the majority group is being constantly elbowed off the bands by the contest minded types.

Could we, therefore, not consider that to improve this state of affairs a contest should be so organised that it occupies a reasonable bandwidth within our particular bands. Let us consider an 80 Metre SSB contest as our example. All entries would be on an equal footing in a 100 KHz restricted section of, say, from 3.65 to 3.75 MHz. The areas of band remaining could then be free for normal non-contest use.

With the present "snowballing" of new call-signs and the prospect of ever-increasing levels of QRM I feel strongly that the time to put this present shambles in order is already overdue. I would like to hear other members views on this subject and hope that if this letter is printed it will be read in "high places".

I already feel that I have lifted a great weight from my chest but I suspect that an organised crusade is necessary to bring about any changes....."

(Over to you, readers, what do you think??. Drop a line to the Ed.).

Mike, G4ICC, sends along yet another "Howler" prompted by mention of "Operation Drake" Drake circumcised the world with a fifty-foot cutter". This is, apparently, a true one!. Mike found the Marine Interference article of interest as he has had problems in this respect.

From John Cardell comes a delightful post card showing a local beauty from a Zulu Kraal in the Nkwalini District of South Africa telling us (the card - not the beauty.) that John's address is now 396 Currie Road, Durban, 44001, Natal, R.S.A. John is, of course, ZS5CS/RSARS 0592 and his XYL, Diane, is ZS5DC. They both send their 73 to all members.

From : Ted Ross, GM3LWS, Glenrothes West. "I received the latest "Mercury" this a.m., and being somewhat under the WX have had an opportunity to read it (in pyjamas/dressing gown) in record time. I've made a note of the paragraphs on which I will make comment - so here goes.

Page 15, para 1 This might have been written about me!. I can just about close my left eye. I have no recall of any efforts on the ranges at Canterbury (the Buffs - as was), but it was eventually decided at Catterick that my eyesight was not conducive to the transmission and reception of Morse Code (as a Regular) for they tried to get me back in as a Conscript!!. I eventually landed up at an establishment in Leics.

Page 16, Para 5 I too would like to hear from Maurice as to what happened to the only copies I had of certain VP8 photos which were to be loaned to a HQ Exhibition some years ago. Maurice was in Cardiff in those days.

Page 28 Ref. Rays epistle on Awards. You will note that my membership No. has been multiplied by 100 and 2 added to the result!. No, neither Ray nor any other heard me. In fact, I worked surprisingly few GIs due, in part, to the prolific DL's at phenomenal strength. (P.S. Did you hear the one about the G4I.. who was using his twin brothers rig to work ZC4CZ, and did not even call the aforementioned brother to the key!?).

MAIL BOX - Contd.

Page 44 VK Novice Frequencies. I cannot recall hearing any VK's in this portion of the band, but I have heard a considerable amount of activity from various parts of the globe and, judging by the speeds, novices all. The only problem was that I was trying to log Beacons and the "novices" made this impossible as they were occupying the Beacon channels. I am, of course, referring to 28 MHz.

Page 9 The VK2ABQ Antenna. My recent activities from ZC4CZ were due in part to the loan of an FT-101-E by Les Palfrey, ZC4LP/G4CQX (A worthy candidate for membership of RSARS. He is with the Civilian Wing, 9 Signal Regiment, BFPO 58) and, in the main, to John Grigsby, ZC4JG, the TOT at 9 Signal Regiment. John had acquired the old Paymasters Office (ex RAF days) complete with steel door, several locks and bars on the windows!! John had installed his FT-400 (and an ancient 7B printer) and outside had hung up an HF Trapped Dipole, which at one time had been vandalised by having the feeder sliced, and which was eventually removed to his new QTH. However, his "Piece de Resistance" (Is that right?) was his "Button Beam" a 2-Band (10/15) affair. This was up at about 25-30 feet on a tower and, despite the "Strong Arm" method of rotation and retention, constantly rotated in the wind (which did not do much to alleviate the high temperature problem inside the shack). Quite frankly, I trust his trouser buttons performed better in their intended role, than they did as insulators, for this they were not, and the "beam" made an excellent 3-band Loop with apparent all-round radiation. It apparently radiated more power than it was capable of inputting, for reports appeared to improve when power dropped from 150 Watts to less than 25 Watts. Mind you, I have always maintained that a good prefix is worth a KW and a 6-element Yagi. The local Yobs (Brits, I fear) also had a go at the tower, for the turnbuckles were often slackened right off, presumably in the hope that the tower would topple, but having been sunk in 'n' feet of concrete, it was more substantial than the building. The point is - if the thing performed as well in its original form with insulators as it did as a Loop, it must have been really something. Incidentally, operating meant a ½ mile walk each way to collect/return the keys.

Incidentally, the antenna here is a 40 Metre End Feed length of GPO land-line wire (so that no-one will know.) erected in such a way that I cannot reach either end without the aid of a ladder. This is not conducive to activity on 80/160 during TV hours, as I tend to create havoc with Colour TVs. I can operate with a Monochrome TV with built-in loop, sitting on top of the rig - no problem. I did have an 18AVQ but this ended up as an inverted 'U' after one bad winter.

Regarding the ZC4CZ award for contributing most points to the UK. I had the honour, with the aid of others of the Famagusta Group of gaining this in 1965. I eventually received it TEN YEARS LATER.

From : Archie, G2WQ/RSARS 0316, Oswestry, ".....Thank you for the plaque, I must write and say that I am very thrilled. This is far and away my finest trophy, and it now has a prominent place (NOT in the shack, so that more people can see it). I have often felt that Life Membership, at the time I joined, must now be rather expensive to the Society, with increased postage and a luxurious Awards programme, so I should like to make the enclosed donation to the funds, (Archie sent along a very generous donation, for which we extend our sincere thanks, - Ed.)

I worked Les, VK2NLE last week and now find that he features on several pages of "Mercury". He puts in a fine signal (Around 21.170 MHz, SSB, from about 11:30 GMT onwards. - Ed.). G6VQ, who enlisted him, and I were together during the War and were great friends.....".

Another note from Ted, GM3LWS, Glenrothes West, this time on a different topic, ".... Re G3DBU and Securicor; it seems to me that a point has been missed or, perhaps, not all has been revealed, In para, 3, line 7 you state that "On the receipt the customers attention is drawn to.....". As I understand this, the receipt was the culmination of the contract on the part of G3DBU. The point I would be interested to know, and which is not made clear, was G3DBU made aware of the limits of compensation BEFORE parting with his cash? If not then surely there has been a misrepresentation (or something).

MAIL BOX - Contd.

I have dealt with Securicor on three occasions, Once when I paid cash for carriage of a transmitter, and on two occasions when the charge was made to the account of Messrs Lowe in Matlock. I was NEVER advised verbally, nor was my attention drawn to this point, fortunately I suffered no loss or damage. I did find, however, that their so-called express delivery was not so express, and I could have delivered the goods quicker using a tradesman's push bike.

Incidentally, the charges made to Lowes were £5 in each case, this being charged to my account by Lowes. On enquiring of Securicor what would have been the cost to me, I was advised "approximately £12!!....." (Like many Companies that use the Securicor service on a regular basis, Lowes probably have a "minimum parcels per month" contract with Securicor whereby they agree to send/collect (at their expense), say, 300 parcels per month. For this Securicor offers preferential rates. If, however, Lowes only sent, say, 200 parcels during any one month, they would still have to pay the contract price. It is believed that the present Securicor 'A' or 'B' Service will mean delivery to most points on the mainland within 24 hours except, perhaps, to the very distant or remote areas. - Ed.)

From : John Douglas, ON8GM/RSARS 1022, Brussels, ".....You may be interested to know that the Belgian Government has recently yielded to pressure from the CB fraternity and has authorised a 27 MHz CB Service. Equipment already in use will be tolerated for a transition period but all new equipment must be type approved, this effectively means a maximum of 22 Channels at 10 KHz spacing and a maximum power of 0.5 Watt.

This, of course, is disastrous for model radio control types like me who have been using the 27 MHz band perfectly legally for years, If we don't want to risk losing an expensive model, and perhaps killing someone in the process, we will have to buy new R/C equipment operating on another band, At least it keeps the VAT authorities happy!!!.

It is interesting to note that up to now, at least, the standards of operating and courtesy on the CB channels are rather better than those on the local 2 Metre repeater, although this may change as the CBers proliferate....." (See article by John elsewhere in this issue - Ed.).

A little on QRP work comes from Alec, G3BWX. "The Secret Weapon" is jogging along gently, but I don't join the Nets unless conditions are reasonable. It's collected me quite a few "firsts" but I am trying to boost my CW score a bit. Five new CW ones in the 5-59 Contest CW Section but the tally of cards is stuck at 94!!.

Now have a 10-15-20 Metre dipole strung up in the roof space and this has added six W's and a VE on 21 for the HW-7".

Jeff Proctor writes from Hereford to say that he has successfully passed a rather tough assessment course for his new Unit but now faces a communications course (with which we wish him luck - Ed.). He has recently purchased a Yaesu FRG-7000 and requests any details from members concerning a converter for 2 Metres for use with this rig. Jeff is not too sure of the I.F.'s etc. at 28.000 MHz but at 28.800 MHz these are: 1st Osc. = 83.5 MHz, 1st I.F. = 54.7 MHz, Ref Freq. = 31 MHz, 2nd Osc. = 52.5 MHz, 2nd I.F. = 2.200 MHz, 3rd Osc. = 2.655 MHz, 3rd I.F. = 0.455 MHz. Any news or views for Jeff. via the Editor, please.

"Where were we all?" prompted Ray, G2BPC/0118 to drop a line to say that he was on Labuan Island, Borneo in early 1946 and then moved on to Brunei on a recce of local communications for restoration purposes after the War. This trip involved visits to Seria, Kuala Belait, etc. Prior to this service took Ray to Peshawar, Delhi, Poona, Gan Island, Chagos, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar. He was Signals Officer with the (then) India Command Ocean Bases Recce Party in 1942 which was later absorbed into S.E.A.C, under Mountbatten. Later he became SO II Air Formation Signals for the China, India and Burma Theatres attached to the 10th United States Air Force based in Calcutta until 1946. Ray has a QSL from VS5KU, now G2KU, who was with B.M.P. Co. in either Seria or Miri. After leaving the Far East Ray moved to 1 Training Battalion, Royal Signals, where he was Chief Instructor and served with such notable characters as G5YN, G5KW and G3BWZ.

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From : Bernard Williams, G3JFA/RSARS 1232, Grays, Essex, ".....Looking through the impressive and memory jogging display of "Where were we all?" I was a little crestfallen to see no mention of BRINDIV SIGNALS.

British and Indian Divisional Signals was formed (immediately after the end of the War with Japan) on the monsoon mudded cum sun baked plains of Malaria and Bubonic plague infested district of Nazik (India) under canvas and within the legendary influence of Deolali. I hope that sets the scene about right.

I think I can claim to have been one of the founder members having arrived there via Mhow prior to its formation with a nucleus from 36th Indian Division as a white kneed Signalman OWL B III with nineteen Summers to his credit.

Officers of the day, with apologies to those whom I cannot now recall, were Lieut. Col. Townsend (with the white socks). Major Jack Drudge-Coates (with his grey tunic shirt), Major Worstenholme (he gave me jankers once - quite wrongly, of course!), Captain Mansell (Adjutant, I think), Lieut. Bert Foden (nice chap) and a first-class Captain Q.M. who twice bailed me out when "Loose Wallahs" relieved me of certain items of equipment.

Anyway, BRINDIV SIGS. moved on to Japan as part of the British and Commonwealth Occupation Force and was originally based at Hiro, quite close to atom blasted Hiroshima or what was left of it, but subsequently moved to Okayama a bit further up country thus making way for the Australian contingent.

Officers came and went and NCO's and OR's diminished as their Demob. Group came up, but Drudge-Coates remained to become Lieut.-Col. and C.O. and, I think, he moved on during 1947. He was the only active radio amateur I knew in those days. Perhaps he was a radio active amateur bearing in mind our earlier close proximity to the "scene of the crime". In 1946 he held a 'J' call-sign but we only became aware of this when he BCI'd domestic and service link equipment. Sad to relate attempts to break into the hobby through D.C. was not received with enthusiasm at that time but, to be honest, the general situation then did not encourage subordinates to follow such illustrious pastimes. All this leads me to say - I can't understand, with Drudge-Coates being the C.O. and all, why BRINDIV SIGS. did not get a mention unless of course it formed only a small part of his long and, no doubt, eventful service career and was an insignificant part by comparison - but not to me it wasn't!!.....". (As far as I am aware, Jack Drudge-Coates, now Silent Key, was never a member of R.S.A.R.S. I did invite him, about 10 years ago, to join, but he declined. Ed.).

John Devereux-Colebourne, G4GPG, writes from Newbury to say "On page 43 of the last "Mercury" the spelling of the RWF is wrong. We spell it WELCH - not Welsh. Could this be put right in the next issue please?". Certainly, John, and sincere apologies to all past and present members of the RWF. The spelling was taken from an application form and, although I should have known better, there is a tendency to take the writers details as correct, mainly in view of the fact that some titles go back to before WWI and many changes have taken place. However - no excuses, and thanks for pointing it out, John, (The OWL is sitting up there with a "I knew it all the time" look on his smirking face! and says he got it right (or wrong again) on the next page). John goes on to say "I commanded a Battalion of the Iraq Levies during the last War in Iraq and Iran so that might be one for the book in the long list you have already".

Ian Linehan, RSARS 910, writes on notepaper headed "Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood" offering to the Society a number of back copies of "S.W.M.", "73" and "Ham Radio" which a friend has for disposal. By the time this is read, your hard-working Gen. Sec. will, no doubt, have made the necessary arrangements. Ian goes on to say ".....I am afraid that the R.A.E. is still in the future - having passed my Finals in 1978, I am now lining myself up for the first of my surgical exams next year. I will have to take that R.A.E. sometime as I already have most of the VHF gear. Don't be fooled by the address at the top of the letter (that's where I am working at present) - my permanent address hasn't changed....." (Good Luck with the exams - and with the R.A.E., - Ian. - Ed.).

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From : John P. Wilson, GW3BGP/RSARS 0326, Cardigan. "....Further light on the missing troops (Page 5, last "Mercury" - "Do you know?") can be obtained from the book "Into Thin Air - People who disappear" by Paul Begg, published 1979 by David and Charles, Brunel House, Newton Abbott, Devon.

Begg reports that this story has gained both momentum and embellishment in the telling over the years. He writes that it was the First/Fifth (NOT the First/Fourth) Norfolk Regiment and that some 200 men "disappeared" in heavy mist. In fact two officers were repatriated after the War from prison camps (Turkish?) so there were some survivors. He suggests that most were killed or taken P.O.W. and that Turkish records were notoriously slap-dash both for prisoners and for war graves and the only logical explanation was that the men were killed or captured after going out of sight in the mist. Begg's book covers a number of strange cases.....". (Other details on this mystery can be found in "Without a Trace" by Charles Berlitz, published in paperback by Granada Publishing (Panther). This contains a signed statement of the event by Sapper F. Reichart (4/165), Sapper R. Newnes (13/416) and Sapper J.L. Newman (Number not given), of No.3 Section of No.1 Field Company, New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, who witnessed the event. Another mystery, never explained, concerned the S.S. Ulrich. This ship was sailing off the coast of Ireland on April 7th 1939 when, at 13:14 hours P.F. Phillips, the Second Mate, noticed that the ship was yawing badly and proceeded to the bridge. There he found that the helmsman, John Greeley, had been transformed into a human cinder. Apart from the acrid stench of burning flesh there was no other indication of fire or damage on the bridge. The deck, and the dead man's shoes, were unmarked by the flames!. Coincidentally, a few hundred miles away, at Upton-by-Chester, England, police investigated a runaway lorry crash and were a little more than surprised when, on opening the cab door, they found that the driver, one George Turner, had been similarly incinerated!... But back to John's letter..... "Mention of "Where were we all?" brings to mind an unusual Unit. This was the Signals Training Team, British Military Mission to France. This was after the War was over and I was in a small team based at St. Raphael in the South of France to train signallers of the 1st French Colonial Division in the use of British equipment, WS19, 38, 68 and similar equipment. This Division was, I believe, destined to go to French Indo-China (as it was then) and so, in a modest way, I was probably in at the start of the years of struggle in what came to be called Vietnam. Our pupils were French officered Foreign Legion, the bulk of them being German ex-POW's who got early release from the French Camps if they signed on in the Legion. In fact, they were trained signallers and our "teaching" was little more than familiarisation in operation and field maintenance. The Other Ranks also included a sprinkling of French, Italians, Spaniards and at least one French Canadian, all of doubtful history. We soon learned the Legion Golden Rule of not asking questions on background but it was clear that some had a criminal history while others, well experienced in military conduct, were plainly deserters from their own armies.

The training sessions were at the nearby military camp at Frejus which had both a Christian church and a Moslem mosque, the minaret of the latter being used during field exercises as the radio Net Control and Observation Post, its height allowing us to ensure through binoculars that signal units did, in fact, deploy as instructed instead of going to the nearest bar - or worse!! It became quite clear with that motley mob that all armies and all soldiers have broadly similar attitudes and pursuits. Happy Days!!....."

A letter from our "'Mercury'-on-tape" producer, Dave, G4CGS tells us of new (more permanent) QTH from May 1980 when he will be located at 24 Rolleston Drive, Newthorpe, Notts, NG16 2BD. Although the address is Newthorpe the location is actually Eastwood, just a couple of miles west of Junction 26 on the M1 near Nottingham. Not a good spot for VHF but with a TV Booster station about 1/2 mile away things should be interesting on HF!. Dave had problems when recording the last "Mercury" tape as it was found that the mic in use acted as a SW receiver, so the White Stick Platoon had music while you listen!!!.

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From Beckenham, Kent comes a short note from Mike, G3GWD/0457 prompted by the "Where were we all" article. (This article proved very much more popular than expected - Ed.). "I served with the Royal Signals Troop attached to the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales Dragoon Guards) 1949-1950. The Carabiniers were, of course, amalgamated with The Scots Greys in 1970 to form "The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards". As a P.S. Mike adds "I note in the list that mention is made of the 1st Battalion Queen's Dragoon Guards. I have always thought that cavalry regiments consisted of "Troops" and "Squadrons"". (See the reply to John, G4GPG, above - this is how it was written on the application form!, although I must say that I have always been under the same impression, Mike. Bear in mind, however, that Royal Signals Units, now Regiments, Squadrons and Troops, etc. were, at the end of the last War, at least, known as 1 Trades Training Battalion, 1 Operators Training Battalion, etc. If my faltering memory serves me, I seem to remember that in 1946 my address was 77 Section, 3 Squadron, 1 Operators Training Battalion, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.! - Ed.

The same article prompted Norman, G3INN, to write. "Where were we all?". For me the OCTU at Marne Lines in 1946, 150 Course, then to BAOR and 2 S.S. Troop with 2 L. of C. Later attached to 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment at Gutersloh and the "A" Trade" Training School until 1949. I wonder if anyone has memories of that?. Sadly, Major Jarvis has died and also Captain Jim Burns who was my OC and Chief Instructor. Memories of D2MA (DL2MA) while I was D2IN (DL2IN). That's how I got G3INN, by asking the G.P.O. in 1950 for a similar call-sign. We used to have some marvellous 80 Metre Nets in those days on A.M. My Troop Sergeant was a friend of GW2PH, a Sergeant Stevens of Pontypool. I wonder what happened to him. Anyone any news? You may be interested to know that I am running the RAE Courses at Princes Risboro' so the work started in Gutersloh many years ago continues on a civilian basis. It might be an idea for some of. the old D2's and DL2's to write in.....". (We await their letters - Ed.)

From : J.R.M. Hewitt, G3SGH/RSARS 0151, 28 Mardol Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9RA also comes a long and interesting letter. "Ref. the disappearance of the 1/4 Norfolks on Hill 60. Having read of this before in various War histories it has seemed strange to me that no "official" investigation has ever been made - or, if there was, its findings had a D Notice slapped on it!!!. However how's this for an explanation - that this was another U.F.O. phenomena!. Yes I'm serious. An open-minded study of the U.F.O. phenomena, by sifting out the quack and wagon-jumpers does give one cause to think and wonder, particularly when a number of disappearances and sightings are coupled with a "cloud" in an otherwise cloudless sky!!!. No, I have never seen one, but I do believe those accounts that are reported by ordinary intelligent folk. (By the way, the American Air Force "Blue Book" was a farce from beginning to end)." (Tnx. John, for your interesting comments. Members interested in further reading may like to see "U.F.O. - Flying Saucers over Britain" by Robert Chapman (Granada Publishing Ltd), "Investigating U.F.O's" by Larry Kettelkamp (Universal-Tandem Publishing Co. Ltd.), "The Hynek U.F.O. Report" by Dr. J. Allen Hynek (Sphere Books Ltd.), "The U.F.O. Experience" also by Dr. J. Allen Hynek (Publisher unknown), "U.F.O. Trek" by Warren Smith (Sphere Books Ltd), "Beyond Earth" by Ralph Blum and Judy Blum, (Corgi Books), "Celestial Passengers" by Margaret Sachs with Ernest Jahn, (Penguin Books), "The Warminster Mystery" by Arthur Shuttlewood (Tandem), "Without a trace" by Charles Berlitz, (Granada Publishing). "Man and the Stars" by Duncan Lunan, (Corgi Books) - and lots more - Ed.).

From Jack, GW4ITJ/RSARS 1462 a "PPS". to Ray, G3EKL states I still have in my possession two group photographs of the following - CHANGI SIGNAL SECTION, 1937/38 and COMBINED CHANGI AND ALEXANDRA SIGNAL SECTIONS taken at Alexandra Barracks, Singapore in 1938. If you know of any ex-Signals personnel who may be interested in seeing them, I would be happy to be of assistance". If you are interested, drop a line to C.J.J. Hard, GW4ITJ /RSARS 1462, 3 Longbridge, Ponthir, Newport, Gwent, NP6 1GT.

MAIL BOX - Contd.

A long, interesting but rather sad letter from J.D.G. Osborne, RSARS 0879, of 11 Carlton Avenue, Shelton Lock, Derby, DE2 9EH. The following are extracts: ".....I have been QRT due to a serious accident which happened on 10th October 1978. I was called out to work, and was returning home via a Pedestrian Crossing and was actually right in the middle of it when I was knocked down by a car. Result - right leg broken in two places, right shoulder broken, left shoulder broken and dislocated, the car antenna went through my left leg and broke off, and the wing mirror stuck in my back (otherwise, he nearly missed me!!). Luckily, a Police car had stopped at the crossing to allow me to cross. Luckily also, the driver of the car was fully insured, but has been found guilty on numerous charges including speeding, so he must have hit me at over 30 mph..... I am now back at work on a part-time basis but have a right leg 1-1/2 inches shorter than my left and I cannot yet fully dress myself or even comb my hair, and it now looks as if I may have to go back into hospital to have my right kneecap removed..... When the police came to the hospital after the accident I had to smile when they asked me my job, and I replied that I worked for Rolls Royce on "Damage Control" Thanks to an ex-Royal Signals friend who bundled me into his car, I did manage to attend the 1st Airborne Division Signals Reunion last September and met a lot of old friends, many I knew only by name, such as "Dolly" Gray, "Dolly" always seemed to be on the other end of the Div, CW Net when I was at 2 Para. Bde. I met many others - Johnny Firkins (and his wife) who organised the event, ex-Cpl Ray Harrison (who was my transport driver for the day), "Dewey" Joe Thomas, Fred Fletcher, etc" these all being members of the old 'K' Section of 2 Para. Bde., 1st Airborne Division Signals. As a result of this meeting we are trying to contact any other ex-members of 'K' Section in order to organise a reunion. (Anyone who served with 'K' Section and are interested in a reunion are asked to drop a line to "879" at the above address, or to the Editor)..... I have always received and enjoyed "Mercury" but realise that I have never contributed a penny towards its upkeep. This I hereby rectify with the enclosed cheque."..... (Enclosed was a very generous donation, which is hereby gratefully acknowledged - Ed.) I shall be moving QTH sometime in 1980 and I have a bungalow already selected. It has a garden with enough ground for a 40 Metre Dipole and a 100 feet Long Wire as I have at present..... (We all wish you well, OM, with a speedy and complete recovery. - Ed.).

From: Norman Atkins, G14CUV, 38 Roscoole Park, Belfast, BT14 8JX. I have not been on the Tuesday and Thursday Nets for sometime past due to trouble with my antenna. I hope to rectify this when the better weather comes....."

An interesting note comes from "A member" who says "Have worked cross-band 27 to 29 MHz to VK2. Quite interesting as I was calling 'CQ' on 29.025 MHz when a voice said "Listen on 27.450 MHz". I did and had a 17 minute QSO with "Red Rooster". It seems he runs a Trio TS-820 modified for 27 MHz.....". (Doubt if this was strictly legal, although Para 1 (b) of the Amateur Licence does state "To use the station for the purpose of sending to and receiving from, other licensed amateur stations.....etc. If the station in VK2 was legally licensed then, I suppose, it all depends (as Prof. Joad would have said) what you mean by "amateur". The OWL's dictionary defines "Amateur" (derived from "amare" - to love) as "One who cultivates anything as a pastime, as distinguished from one who does so professionally" and "Professional" is "One who makes his living by some art, sport, etc., as distinguished from one who engages in it for pleasure". Whatever the legal implications, it does show that 27 MHz. transmissions are really no more than amateurs on another frequency and any mental picture formed of low-powered, hand-held personal radios can be forgotten. - Ed.).

From: Frank, G2HLL, 932 Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS17 6HL. "I am about 95% CW only - just as I was during WW II!! I have been trying to raise interest in 2 Metre CW and there are several of us up here in Yorkshire regularly on 2 Metre CW and looking for contacts. Another regular is Stan, G2ATM, of Nottingham - also RSARS. G3ARM and G6ZO were in the same unit as myself in Italy towards the end of the war"..... (Ex-2588743).

MAIL_BOX--Contd.

From: Chas., G3XTL, 6 Fellwilson Street, Warsop, Mansfield, Notts., NG20 0PT comes the following: -

ARTICLES ARE ALWAYS REQUIRED FOR MERCURY - we agree,
The way you put it made the message easy to see,
With figures first and alphabet then
A simple straightforward shift of ten,
Although I'm apt to reply in code,
Please bear with me and my New Year's ode."

(The part in capitals was, of course, the answer to the last P 1954 code problem- - Ed.). Chas continues: - Ref. "Did you know?" page 36 of issue 11/79. Geoff Vollar of The Science Museum was first operator of GB3AWR (404 Press Communications Squadron AER) at Blandford at the time of formation of RSARS when Gus Taylor G8PG was our Troop Officer. Gus was later OC of 92 Signal Regiment AER (Forfar) and this Special Communications outfit with the call-sign G3SIG amalgamated and became 2 Squadron of 39 (City of London) Signal Regiment with the call-sign G3LUN. Regarding "Where were we all", I didn't go far and I see you have listed my postings and attachments except SRDE (Christchurch), and I spent some time with Klagenfurt Signal Squadron which, during 1952/53, was HQ British Troops Austria as well as Brigade Signals for 37 Independent Infantry Brigade. Also I am sure that many grand chaps would like to see 404 Sqdn., (Press Communications) AER added to the list. I had interesting stints including two tours with The Milk Race which involved a fortnight each year chasing cycles around the country and posing for cameras to show that Royal Signals operates on milk!!!. However, I will not claim to have been attached to The Milk Marketing Board or The British Cycling Federation but, as exercises go, the first-class hotel accommodation at each of the stage towns was preferred to a Bivi on Bodmin Moor. It was also good practice for my recent stints doing radio for the RAC Rallies.

A little on call-sign histories. During 1948 OWL's will, no doubt, remember JYM. RBM and VKC or else they may find them in note-books from 3 T.R. Perhaps some will also recall the Norway link - JAWO. I remember G3CHR at 10 W.T.S, and MD7DC at 2 Wireless Regiment. Also I had the privilege of operating MB9BS at Klagenfurt - perhaps MB9BJ was better known. I must thank F.O.S. Frank Sweet for allowing his call-sign to be used and also providing equipment for the Club station where I remember some epic QSOs including a G3 who gave us a running commentary on the Coronation, another with the West Bank Exhibition. Since then - G3AWR, G3SIG, G3LUN, ZC4TL and now, with 73, G3XTL Chas.

From: Ronald Pain, P29RP, Pasuwe limited, Box 6124, Boroko. P.N.G. Ron. who is RSARS 1368, writes: "My own connection with Signals was when I joined the Signals Platoon at my old school, The King's School, Parramatta in 1934 and after leaving school the next year when I joined the Militia Cadets in 1st Division Signals (Australia) in Carlow Street in North Sydney. I sat for, and got, my commission in '36, which was duly signed by the late Lord Gowrie, the (then) Governor-General and I volunteered for the Expeditionary Force in October 1939, being assigned to the only Divisional Signals Unit, 6 Division Signals. I had the good fortune to do a six weeks' "cruise" in the "Queen Mary" landing at the Clyde in June 1940 and serving at Lopcombe Corner and later at Meeanee Barracks, Colchester before arriving in Egypt on New Year's Day 1941 from the old "Strathaird". I was tied up in Tobruk during the siege with 9 Australian Division Signals later acting as Adjutant to Base Area Signals Gaza until the Japs came into the war and we returned to Aussie, when I eventually became C.I. First Army School of Signals later to be named New Guinea Force School of Signals. After running the School for two years I applied for transfer to The Royal Corps in India and finished up as CO Malaya Command Signals in Kuala Lumpur, returning to Sydney in 1946. I then started in business which I eventually sold in 1976 and came up to P.N.G. again, this time in a missionary supply organisation....."

MAIL BOX -- Contd.

From: Paul Quast, EI5BH, 1 Auburn Villas, Athlone. "I often wonder if the following could be bettered for "It's a small world". During my time in Catterick just after the War I had a particular pal by the name of Douglas Higgens. Obviously, when I left Catterick in early '47, our paths went separate ways. Later, in 1949, I often used to work VS1BJ in Singapore and I found out that Douglas was stationed there. I lost contact again until the early '50's when, on my way from Medan to Batavia we called into Singapore. I found my way to the Signals camp and literally bumped into Douglas. After that we again lost contact until, in the late '60's I saw an abbreviated name similar to his in a ham magazine, took courage, and enquired if it was the same chap. It was. We again lost contact until one day in 1976 there was a knock on the door here and there stood Douglas!. At present I believe he is living in London and, hopefully, I will again strike up the acquaintance when I get over there. Looking back through my old logs I notice that VS1BJ was "manned" by several operators including Harry, John, Pete, Mac, and Jeff/Geoff. I wonder where they all are now? The call was Vest Socks One Boot and Jacket!. I am still pretty active on RTTY but not as often as previously due to business commitments".

From: John F. Neville, KA7DQQ (Ex WA6CEB)/RSARS 0557, 2222 Sandia Drive, Prescott, Arizona, 86301, U.S.A. "We are now established in our new home and liking it very much. Radio propagation from here is very good short path (Elevation 5,700 feet a.s.l.) and have been working quite a few members on 10 Metres particularly Cedric, GM4GPP, 1235, in the Shetland Isles. Would like to suggest to all members that I shall be monitoring 3.550 or 21.290 MHz depending on conditions most days from 15:30 hours GMT onwards. I have a new beam antenna here (a TH5 HY-GAIN) and it seems to work out very well. Prescott is quite a way from our other Stateside member in Apache Junction. The view from the rear of the house here is about 80 miles towards the Grand Canyon. We had a fall of snow over Xmas but that has now all gone (Jan. 6th - Ed). I would certainly like to attend the A.G.M. at Catterick this year - the only trouble is that the XYL wants to go to Alaska!. (Tell her Catterick is often like Alaska! - Ed.) Prescott is situated in the Prescott National Forest, plenty of Christmas trees, a few lakes, etc. We are well served with repeaters including one in Prescott - we are blessed with high mountain peaks on which to install them!"

From: John Bladen, G4FZA/9G1KU/RSARS 1378, 4 St. James Close, Hanslope, Milton Keynes. "I have been QRT, except for one short QSO with G3ADZ. This has been mainly due to the amount of work we have had to put into the new QTH. I think that it is likely to remain this way until June/July by which time I am off to Kingston, Jamaica for three years. I definitely hope to obtain a 6Y call on arrival. Hopefully, too, I will pick up a new rig on the way out there around the middle of July. I will again mainly be on CW but will certainly go "SSB" for those who wish a RSARS SSB QSO. I certainly hope that band conditions from there will be better during the "Net Schedules" than they were in 9G1-Land where I called "CQ RSARS" many Mondays without success...."

From: Larry Dykstra, WB7CZW/RSARS 0990, 7913F, Cayer Court, Fort Meade, Maryland, 20755, U.S.A. "For members interested in a Stateside RSARS QSO I hang out on 10 Metres quite a bit, usually between 28.8 and 29.0 MHz. I will start listening and calling on 28.575 MHz at 14:30 GMT on Sundays. That should provide chances for me to get some points and any other interested parties....."

From: Eric G. Birks, G3XXO/RSARS 1230. "I served with No.4 Special Communications Unit mentioned in "Where were we all" keeping tabs on Tedesci. Some of our radio bods intercepted his morse and we sent it back to Blighty from Rome for translation. How did we get it back home without him hearing his own stuff on the air? We used a Cable and Wireless Land-Line from Rome to Naples, then to Malta by cable, then to Gibraltar by the same means and then to the U.K. by submarine cable..."

MAIL BOX - Contd.

From: G.W. Adams, G4AKN/0884. "...Enclose herewith my £2 sub. When I reflect. In 1934, that would buy 120 pints of Mild and now it will get you 4 pints of Bitter with a few pence over..... I wonder whether members could condense their experiences with their own particular rigs. i.e. YAESU, KW, DRAKE, etc., with a volunteer for each type to gather in problems AND SOLUTIONS and keep them on file. Then when a particularly difficult fault arose an SAE might obtain an answer. I realise that this could be a large chore for each volunteer but if entries were concise and clear, it would be a very handy bureau.

For instance, I have found with 3 KW Atlantas that the 270 kOhm resistors tend to go high. Having said that, I would, as long as I was able, look after Atlanta "gen". The only requirements would be an SAE for answers, full details of information discovered or faults diagnosed, written clearly and concisely to fill an intelligent summary. I would need support and a period of time to obtain a "library"..... (What do other members think of this idea? - Ed.).

From: Dennis. G3ADZ comes a long and interesting letter about gear in his shack. "..... In my shack sits an HRO (R 106). It has a small plaque attached which certifies it to be the RX used by me at Lunenburg Heath to monitor and record the PL messages from Monty to all Units ending hostilities in Europe. Its power pack blew up many years ago, but I now run it from another power supply and it is still working very well although now in need of a "professional" overhaul..... (Dennis then goes on to tell how the HRO got from Lunenburg Heath to his shack but to save embarrassment to all concerned (including "the friendly" RAF chap who took the RX from Manston to the left luggage office at Victoria station from where Dennis had to pay an "excess" fine of 10/- on his next leave to recover it) We'll leave the details until a little later). "..... For several years after the War it was "the station" backed up by an 807/807 crystal controlled TX on 10 Metres to a "bit of wire" outside the window. No TVI and plenty of QSOs. I later managed to buy a No.12 Set on the surplus market and that gave me four bands for a very long time, although I never did manage to find a cure for the BCI on 160!!!....."

From: Alan Roocroft, VK5NKP/1418. 41 Harvey Avenue, Salisbury, South Australia, 5108. ".....I haven't come up on 21 much lately due to a number of reasons, mainly that I haven't heard many Europeans at sked time (and haven't heard Les either). So I've spent my time on the air completing my tally for W.A.S. (which I am awaiting) and working towards DXCC (which stands at 131 worked but only 87 verified). My home-brew twin beam survived a hurricane which ripped through VK5 not too long ago, but it doesn't seem to be performing too well. I should bring it down but don't seem to have the time. My 2-element Quad is still on the ground, finished except for tuning and erecting, but...

You might be interested to know that I have worked 21 UK members (17 - G, 3 - GW, 1 - GM). Overseas members in the bag and all confirmed are P29RP, 3D6BP, 9H1BB, ZL1AXM, VK2NLE with DA1BS's card still to come. I was talking with VS5AM which is a Club station, a few times lately. The operator was Chris and he tells me he qualifies for RSARS membership and will apply. He spends most of his time with VK's and JA's (those interminable JA's. but they are all thorough gentlemen even if they do generate dense QRM and continue to reply in great numbers to CQ RSARS!.) Next month (February - Ed.) I am due to sit for my "full" call, theory and CW, but don't hold out much hope. The diddly-dahs shouldn't be too much problem as I can handle 30 wpm and 35 wpm in short bursts.

Out of all my "G" contacts I still haven't worked any Liverpool stations either in or out of the Society. You might print a request for any members to listen for me as I need to find out if the L.A.R.C. is the same one that I was a founder member of in a little room in a City building back in about 1950. Tony Treanor (G3FZG) was the only licensed op amongst about 6 or 7 SWLs including yours truly. Best wishes to all/73

Alan.

MAIL BOX -- Contd.

From: Paul Scottorn, G3RFI/0133, 34 Sutton Mill Road, Potton, Sandy, Beds. "I read with interest the comments of G3ADZ on page 22 of "Mercury" 07/79 concerning the difficulty in obtaining CW contacts with RSARS members on the HF bands. I have experienced a similar complete lack of success with "CQ RSARS" calls on 21065 KHz at many and various times of day. I feel that the present arrangement of simply having the nominated ".065 KHz" calling frequencies without specific times is something of a "needle-in-a-haystack" situation. May I suggest that consideration be given to a revival of the old "Activity Days" system which I remember being quite successful on 3.5 MHz some years ago. Perhaps we could try 14/21/28 MHz "Activity Days" once a month for a trial period to see if there is any response. I think some arrangement of this sort would give us a greater chance of finding each other in a situation where there is insufficient activity to warrant "Net" operation. I would suggest that we used the nominated calling frequencies plus nominated calling times, perhaps every two or three hours. Somehow I feel we need to develop a system by which we are "through" to our overseas members more frequently; has anyone any more practical suggestions?, Incidentally, the choice of 21.065 MHz seems rather unfortunate as the frequency is in the U.K., plagued by a Russian jammer system for lengthy periods each day; but I doubt whether this is a major factor in causing the lack of RSARS contacts!. In the fairly near future I hope to be active on 14 and 28 MHz CW also, but, due to shift work, cannot keep to regular operating times....." ("Mercury" does show "Activity Sunday" details, Paul, but your welcome suggestions are passed on to RSARS HQ just the same, Mni tnx. - Ed.).

From A Member of Long Standing comes the following thought. Members are asked to consider and forward their comments to the Editor. "..... This brings to mind a couple of points that you might like to "bank" in the OWL's memory system. First, the annoying habit of some members coupling, to the end of transmissions, to their call-signs "Both/All members of Royal Signals (or RSARS)". This I consider very bad practice as it gives the impression to any listeners that "we are holier than thou", or, at least, a bunch of snobs, etc., etc. If two members are in QSO, they both must be aware they are members of RSARS - I think!!. Secondly, another annoying habit creeps in with annoying regularity and that is the habit of calling "CQ Royal Signals" and not "CQ Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society". This was commented on a few years ago by the (then) General Secretary....." (Passed to you, readers, comments to the Ed, as soon as possible - Ed.).

From: Arthur Rix, G3RYF, 17 Forest Drive East, London, E11 1JX, "As I am about to become a Licensed Layabout in the Summer, I have taken on the job of Treasurer to the British Amateur Television Club, which has about 1,000 members world-wide. If any RSARS members wish to join I will send them an application form. The subscription for the current year is the same as RSARS. A quarterly magazine is produced". (Tel.: 01-539-1468).

From: John, G4DBR, 29 Armitage Lane, Brereton, Rugeley, Staffs., WS15 1ED. "I enclose a check log for the second leg of the '5-59'. I had hoped to be able to claim my "Bronze" before the end of 1979 - but I am ONE CARD SHORT!!. To all members I extend my best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I can say in all honesty that the friendship of the many members of RSARS has helped me through a very traumatic 1979. Owing to increased domestic chores, I have not been so active since my wife's death, but I am hoping that I can continue to the best of my ability in the coming year and, perhaps, join in more often....".

From: George Belsey, G4PX. 21 Kingfisher Road, Hereford, HR2 7TH. "Being an OAP and now 72 and living in a small flat without any outside ground, I am restricted to HF antennas in the small roof space so most of my contacts are with our DX members and I rely on "Mercury" for news of my old mates.....".

From: Kenneth A. Taylor, G4EEC/1176 of Cobham, "Even though it is fifty years since I basked in the Australian sun at Christmas, I still hate frost and snow, even at the festive season!!.



VOTING TIME

FOR
BEST
MERCURY
ARTICLE

Who will receive the coveted "Best Mercury" Article Award in 1980? That depends upon YOU - the reader. All members have been given (free, gratis and for nothing) SIX votes to expend upon any three articles that have appeared in this and the previous two editions of "Mercury" (7/79, 11/79 and 3/80, Nos. 63, 64 and 65). Votes can be awarded in any order or quantity as shown below but remember - 3 ARTICLES, 6 VOTES. Votes by letter, postcard, telegram, pigeon, etc. to the Editor BEFORE 31st MAY 1980 PLEASE. You may use your vote in any way as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Article ONE | 6 5 4 4 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 | You do not have to use all your votes or vote for |
| Article TWO | - 1 2 1 3 2 2 1 1 - 1 1 - | three articles. Six votes and three articles are the |
| Article THREE | - - - 1 - 1 2 1 - - 1 - - | MAXIMUM. |

Please take the trouble to drop a line with your votes and show that the authors efforts are appreciated. Thanks!

m (Sorry, it fell out of the line above)



CAN YOU HELP...?

From Alec Hodgkinson, 64 Queen Alexandra Road, Lombardy East, 2192, Johannesburg, South Africa. "..... Would you be kind enough to insert in a forthcoming "Mercury" that I require C13 and B47 info. I would appreciate it. I am restoring a C13 for old time's sake!! Not very active from ZS6 but do come on 10 using an ICOM IC-701 from time to time.... 73 to all RSARS. Alec. ZS6BMU/RSARS.0250.

From W.K. Smith, W8WS/RSARS 0743, 885 Westchester Road, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, 48230. U.S.A. "I was with the 835th Signal Service Battalion in New Delhi in 1944-45 and would be interested in contacting any of the Royal Signals fellows who might have also been there at that time. Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 1980. 73 Bill Smith.

Dick FLINT, K2EDE, (no address given) is trying to trace the history of his surname and his ancestors. He has a book on the Flints going back to 1870 in the Boston (Mass.) area but would like to hear from anyone who might be able to help. We have no Flints in RSARS but at least 35 are listed in the local (Guildford) Telephone Directory, (Tnx, "QMF").



EMPLOYMENT WITH THE B.B.C.

TOM DOUGLAS/G3BA/0409.

Part of a letter received from Tom reads as follows: "Just as an aside, although I no longer work full time for the B.B.C. I do so one or two days a week in connection with Engineering Recruitment with special responsibility for our Transmitter Group. I am on the look-out for young men or women who are knowledgeable in Radio Transmission Techniques, and if they are ex-Royal Signals, so much the better as they are generally very practical and have a sense of discipline which is all important. Educational standards required is up to 'A' Levels in Physics, Maths and English and a definite interest in some electronic subject like Amateur Radio, Radio Control, Hi-Fi" Audio, Recording or TV Techniques. We have several ex-Signals Engineers in the B.B.C. and if any youngsters are interested (18 to 26 years of age) then I would be pleased to give them fuller information should they care to write to me. I enclose a brochure which gives the details in a little more informative fashion than this wee note". Tom's address is, T.P. Douglas, G3BA, 141 Russell Bank Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 4RJ and a summary of the brochure appears on the next page.

EMPLOYMENT WITH THE B.B.C. - Contd.

The brochure forwarded by Tom is entitled "ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL OPERATIONS IN THE B.B.C.". Rather too long to be produced in full here it does contain details as follows. Technical Assistants. Employed in Television, Radio and Communications areas in London, Regional Areas and at Transmitters. Involved in the setting up, alignment and maintenance of a wide range of equipment used in TV and Radio broadcasting. Must be at least 18. Normal hearing and colour vision essential, 'A', 'B' or 'C' Grade 'O' Level passes or CSE Grade 1 in at least English Language, Maths and Physics and must have studied Maths and Physics at 'A' Level or Scottish equivalent. Should have full understanding of the basic principles of electricity and magnetism and a good grasp of their practical applications. You should also have a knowledge of electronics. Trained by the B.B.C., Technical Assistants should qualify as B.B.C. Engineers in about two and a half years.

Trainee Camera Assistants. These assist generally in the setting up and operation of electronic cameras and associated equipment in TV studios or Outside Broadcasts. Based either in London or at Regional Centres.

Trainee Sound Assistants. These are based in London. They assist with the setting up and operation of microphones, sound booms and sound reproduction equipment for television sound output.

Trainee Audio Assistants. These work at Regional Centres. Do similar work to Trainee Sound Assistant but are also involved in the operation of radio sound equipment because staff flexibility is a prime requirement at Regional Centres.

Technical Operators Radio. Based in London, these staff are responsible mainly for the operation of sound producing equipment or, in the main control room, are concerned with the routing of sound programme sources and of the completed programmes.

Qualifications for the above four appointments: Normal hearing and colour perception. Minimum age 18. A good general education with as a minimum 'O' Level passes (Grades 'A', 'B' or 'C') or CSE Grade 1 or Scottish equivalent in at least English Language, Mathematics and Physics. An ONC or TEC Certificate (Electrical Engineering or Applied Physics) or equivalent would be acceptable in place of Mathematics and Physics 'O' Level passes. A good understanding of the basic principles and practical applications of Electricity and Magnetism is required. Applicants should also have a keen interest in such subjects as High Fidelity Sound Reproduction (including Tape Recording), Photography, Stage Lighting, Music (ideally with the ability to follow a music score) and Drama.

Training. Staff in all the posts covered above attend a three months' course, normally on appointment, at the B.B.C.'s Engineering Training Centre near Evesham. Training is then continued "on the job" and by attending further courses at the Training Centre.

School leavers intending to go on to University should note that selected Graduates in Electrical/Electronic Engineering or Applied Physics are recruited for direct appointment as Engineers.

The first year of a Technical Operators Service and the first fifteen months of a Technical Assistants service, during which reports on conduct and progress are made at intervals, is probationary. At the end of this period, provided your performance has been satisfactory, your appointment would be formally confirmed. There is a pension scheme. The basic working week is 42 hours INCLUSIVE of meal breaks but, due to the nature of broadcasting operations Technical Staff must be prepared to work shifts or irregular hours. Holidays are generally four weeks per year, plus eight public holidays and three special leave days. For a small fee you may become a member of the B.B.C. Club which has branches for employees in London and the Provinces.

For further details drop a line to Tom, address on previous page.



G2CDN's PHILOSOPHY.

REX TOBY/G2CDN/0287.

Rex starts his article with "Looking at the last page of No. 64 "Mercury" I found excerpts from our old friend EDSEL MURPHY. I thought you might like some more thoughts which differ slightly or completely from those published!."

1. All warranty and guarantee clauses become void upon payment or just prior to failure - whichever comes first.
2. Factory manuals will be wrong by a factor of 0.5 or 2.0 whichever gives the most optimistic results. For Salesmen's figures these claims become between a factor of 0.1 and 10.0.
3. After an inspection plate with 24 screws has been removed it will be discovered that it is the wrong plate.
4. After the 24 screws have been replaced, the undercover will be found lying on the bench.
5. Tolerance will accumulate towards maximum difficulty of assembly.
6. Interchangeable parts won't.
7. The component most likely to fail will be the most inaccessible.
8. A Fail-Safe circuit will not only fail - it will destroy others as it does so.
9. Self-starting oscillators won't.
10. A transistor protected by a fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.
11. Intermittent faults will remain so for the service life of the equipment.
12. Every man has a scheme that won't work.
13. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
14. Everything takes longer than you expect.
15. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will go wrong first will be the one that will do the greatest amount of damage.
16. Left to themselves, all things go from bad to worse.
17. If you work on a thing long enough to "improve" it, it will break.
18. If you are now convinced that everything is OK, there will be one thing you have overlooked.
19. Mother Nature always sides with the hidden flaw - and she is a bitch.
20. The chance of bread falling with the butter side up is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
21. As soon as you mention something, if it's good it goes away - and if it's bad, it happens.
22. The unknown quantity is that figure that when multiplied by, divided by, added to or subtracted from the answer you get, gives the answer you should have got.
23. When queueing, the other line always moves faster.
24. Almost anything is easier to get into than out of.
25. One has yet to see any problems, however complicated, that when looked at in the right way, did not become more complicated.
26. If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.
27. Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.
28. a) When in charge - ponder. b) When in trouble - delegate. c) When in doubt - mumble.
29. For every credibility gap there is a gullibility fill-in.
30. To err is human - but to really foul things up you need a computer.
31. All paperwork carefully saved will never be needed - until they are thrown away, and then they become essential.
32. Mother Nature will do her very best to tell you a direct lie.
33. When it is not necessary to make a decision, it is necessary not to make a decision.
34. Nothing will be attempted if all possible objections must be overcome first.
35. Any philosophy that can be put "in a nutshell", belongs there.
36. Them that has - gets.
37. Any tool dropped when working on one's car will roll to the car's geographical centre.

G2CDN's PHILOSOPHY - Contd.

38. In the fight between you and the world, back the world.
 39. Friends may come, friends may go, but enemies just accumulate.
 40. Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters in life begin when you get what you want.
 41. Seven-eighths of EVERYTHING cannot be seen.
 42. If the newspapers of a country are filled with good news, the goals of that country are filled with good people.
 43. In this age, one bag of groceries produces two bags of rubbish.
 44. Variables won't. Constants aren't.
 45. Don't look back something may be catching you up.
 46. Work expands so as to fill the time available. b) Expenditure rises to meet income.
 47. The solution to a problem changes the problem.
 48. The man with one watch knows the time, with two watches he is never sure.
 49. Half of being smart is being aware of your weaknesses.
 50. The only winner of the War of 1812 was Tchaikovsky.
 51. Understanding the Laws of Nature does not mean we should not obey them.
 52. There is no safety in numbers - or anything else for that matter.
 53. If any organisation carries the word "United" in it - it isn't.
 54. Never let go of what you have until you have hold of something else.
 55. Those who don't study the past will repeat it's errors - those who do will find other ways to err.
 56. Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it himself.
 57. Once a job is ruined, anything done to improve it will only make it worse.
 58. When someone else drops a ball, everyone else kicks it around instead of picking it up.
 59. There is never enough time to do it properly, but always enough time to put it right.
 60. Answers on the RAE written examination will always be equidistant from your computed answer and decimal points will always be misplaced.
 61. The more innocuous a design change appears, the further its influence will be extended.
 62. Identical units tested under identical conditions will not operate identically in the field.
 63. The value of a required resistor is never available - furthermore, it cannot be made up with any series, parallel or series-parallel combination of resistors to hand.
 64. A device selected at random from a group having 99% reliability will be the 1% of the group at variance.
 65. The phase sequence will always be wrong when connecting a 3-phase line.
 66. The probability of a dimension being omitted from a drawing is directly proportional to its importance.
 67. If a prototype functions perfectly, subsequent production models will malfunction.
 68. After completing the assembly of an instrument, extra components will be found on the bench.
-and so on, Ad Nauseum. 73 Rex.

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

DID YOU KNOW?.

Private Pike of "Dad's Army" was aptly named. One of the original weapons issued to the Home Guard was the Pike - a 3ft 6ins length of 2ins diameter metal pipe weighing 5lbs with a 17-inch bayonet welded in the end.

A certain Peer, who was a member of the Home Guard stated, in The House of Lords in March 1942, that the Pikes were "a waste of 1,000 tons of valuable iron and steel".

INTRODUCING.....G4HPJ.

G4HPJ is a member of the RSARS White Stick Platoon and, during a recent QSO, with the Editor on 80 it was suggested that a contribution for "Mercury" might be made on a cassette. The tape duly arrived and the following is a transcript of the main points. Other White Stick members are invited to contribute by the same method. The tape will be transcribed and returned. Other members are invited to submit something along the same lines in writing perhaps describing how they came to be involved in this hobby of ours. - Ed.).

You asked for a few notes that may be of some use to you for "Mercury". I think the best thing I can do is to give you a brief history of my amateur radio interests and how it all began, and I'll leave you to lick it into shape.

Ham Radio, for me, began some 12 years ago with the acquisition of a very old (and very battered) B-28 receiver. The set was given to me by a relative and was not in working order, but this was very soon rectified and a speaker added. John, G3YSK, then appeared on the scene and commented that "amateurs" could be received on this piece of equipment. My immediate reaction was who on earth are these "amateurs" - do they broadcast music, or what?". My main interests at this time were Hi-Fi, recording music, stereo, etc., and I soon found out that amateurs do not broadcast music - Hi!

I soon became absorbed in listening to the lads on 80 Metres. Most people will, I am sure, appreciate that with the B-28 (or CR-100), monitoring the higher frequencies proved a little more difficult due to the lack of bandspread. However, I derived a lot of fun from this receiver and it was quite an introduction to Amateur Radio.

My next step was to obtain the publication "An introduction to Amateur Radio" from the Radio Society of Great Britain and this, together with the old B-28, caused "the bug to bite".

I listened to amateurs on this vintage piece of equipment for about a year and then one day - a loud bang, a puff of smoke and silence. The poor old beast was disconnected from the mains and the antenna (I had learnt by now that amateurs did not, in general, call them "aerials" any more!) and that was the end of amateur radio for some months.

Then the Trio 9R59DE - which I think was a marvellous little set for its (then) price of £40 - came on the market, and a trip was made to a certain emporium in Lisle Street where one of these receivers was bought and brought back home to Winchester, and we were back in business again.

Much to my delight the 9R59DE had a nice bandspread system although the drift was pretty terrific on all bands including Medium Wave, but this had to be tolerated in view of the very low price paid. Using this set I listened to the bands for several years. When conditions waned, I think, so did my interest and for a year or two the receiver was placed in its cardboard box and shut away in the cupboard. When, one day, in a burst of enthusiasm, it was retrieved and re-connected. So, about five years ago, listening re-commenced.

About three years ago I decided I would attempt the RAE. All the local amateurs had urged me to "have a go" and were most helpful, but I felt that as I could not see to study the necessary text-books, etc., in order to study, I might be asking too much of myself. Here my wife came to the rescue and kindly offered to read all the textbooks on to cassette for me (This was certainly no mean achievement - Ed.). This she did and I still have 14 to 16 tapes around the shack containing all the information. I still refer to them particularly for details on antennas and propagation and retain them in case they can be of some assistance to some other budding amateur, particularly White Stick. It would, therefore, be a sin to erase them particularly in view of the long hours my wife put in to reading and recording them.

The May RAE (1976, I think) was sat and I was fortunate enough to obtain a first time pass.

When the result was known a trip was arranged to a well known Company in the Totton area of Southampton. The result was an FT DX-401 together with a Europa Transverter. G3YSK again provided assistance by constructing an outboard 12 Volts Power Supply for the Transverter, but,

INTRODUCING.....G4HPJ - Contd.

unfortunately, this was never a complete success apparently due to earth loop currents. Many contacts told me that I resembled Donald Duck!. John tried for 6 or 7 months to resolve the problem but was never entirely successful, although when the Transverter and 401 was taken to the YSK QTH everything worked perfectly.

My inability to radiate an acceptable signal made me rather despondent and several times I felt like giving it all up. Again my wife came to my rescue, convinced me of the futility of admitting defeat and encouraged me to "soldier on".

I did. My birthday came around a little later on, and one present turned out to be a Yaesu 221-R. This was an instant cure for the depression and I was soon on 2 Metres again - all modes (less CW) - with a 4-element Quad mounted on an AR-40 Rotator in the loft (at least it doesn't freeze up in the Winter!!). This activity continued for the next year to eighteen months during which time I realised that a lot of contacts became "regulars". Also, that as well as occasional "openings", the band could be dead for days on end.

This turned my thoughts to CW and a Class 'A' ticket. A lot of effort was made in trying to get to that seemingly elusive 12 words per minute. There followed an intensive course of dots and dashes, ably assisted, again, by John, G3YSK, who gave so unstintingly of his time and advice.

Saturday evening at YSK's became a regular Morse evening and the speed slowly crept up to 6 or 7 w.p.m. - and here it seemed to stick. Like many before me, I felt that I would NEVER get beyond this speed, despite having obtained Morse records and Tapes (the main problem here, I found, was that I soon learnt what was to follow in each practice!).

I decided that a concentrated effort was required and that one way to obtain this was to give up 2 Metre operation completely for a while. At this time a local amateur told me about CW transmissions from a station on 80 Metres with the call-sign P8K. This station provided consistently good Morse varying in speed from about 4 w.p.m. to about 20 w.p.m. with, perhaps, figures one evening and letters the next - hence, one never knew what was coming next!.

For 6 to 8 weeks the concentrated effort in copying P8K continued - and the speed slowly increased. At the point where I felt I could pass the test, I made an application straight away. The Inspector came to the house and, again, I was lucky enough to obtain a pass at the first attempt. This was followed by a big sigh of relief!!!.

Soon the call-sign G4HPJ was received. With the help of the ever present G3YSK, a Trapped Dipole was erected, but this antenna never proved a 100% success probably due to a faulty trap. It was, therefore, lowered and made into a Long Wire. It was then that the HF problems really began.

I could work, without problems, on 80 Metres, on 40 Metres I could not load the antenna through the Z-Match and, despite a very nice SWR reading on 20, 15 and 10 Metres I suffered tremendous TVI completely wiping the audio on all local TV's including our own. So activity was limited to 80 Metres, but I did manage some DX during non-TV hours including ZL, VK, W6, PY, etc.

A change of antenna was indicated - but what? One day my wife was reading RadCom to me and an item in the "In your Opinion" column described how the author had overcome similar TVI problems by using a Vertical Antenna fed with good quality low-loss feeder. I was told about the DX5V 5-Band Vertical Antenna available from Western Electronics. One was ordered together with the necessary feeder (I think it was American RG-213 Co-ax). Eventually the antenna arrived - but the feeder did not. Eventually, about 150 feet of the co-ax arrived and the antenna was erected at the end of the garden about 100 feet away from the house. The excess co-ax is coiled in the loft after the "duty" section was buried down the garden to the house, up the wall and along the eaves into the loft and then into the shack. The excess feeder appears to make little, if any, difference to the operation of the antenna. The earth system consists of a length of 1/2" or 5/8" copper pipe driven into the ground under the antenna where it is connected to the earthing coil. So far only one radial has been attached - for the upper end of 80 Metres and this permits reasonable tuning at the

INTRODUCING.....G4HPJ - Contd.

top end of the Band. The lower end is not yet usable as the SWR reading is around 4 or 4.5 to 1. Additional radials should help this and will be added shortly.

The SWR readings on the other HF bands are reasonable, although the purists would probably consider them rather high. I have been told, however, by the antenna "specialists" that such reading as 1.8 or 2 to 1 are not that detrimental, and the DX I have worked tends to prove their suspicions.

With the Vertical and the 401 I get excellent strength and quality reports. Perhaps the fact that I am using the Datong ASB Speech Processor helps in this respect. I find this processor ideal for my particular case as there are no rotatable (i.e. potentiometer type) controls and, once set up for the rig with which it will be used, has only push-button controls to give between 6 and 30 db compression. The ASB also has a "Tune" button which allows tune-up without having to switch the main rig to the tune or CW position.

That about explains the rig and shack set-up here. Perhaps a few final comments may be of interest.

I am not a great lover of Nets and I do not work for Awards, I do, however, like a good rag-chew, and my favourite band - after 2 Metres - is 20 as one can usually find something of interest at almost any time. On the HF bands my main interests (apart from the good rag-chew) is finding new countries and talking to the United States and Canada. The main advantage of QSOs with W and VE is that they always have something to talk about and it is not just a case of name, QTH, report and good-bye.

I have an ex-Army friend in Australia, who was previously licensed in Germany and Bahrain. He has now settled in VK-land and is licensed as VK4ABH, Despite having contacted many VKs, all of whom will pass on my 73, I have yet to work VK4ABH.

The thing I like about Amateur Radio as a hobby is its many facets, there is something for everyone and an awful lot of fun to be had. However, one or two small points do "go against the grain" with me, especially the now almost world-wide use of the "royal we". I cannot understand, with some stations, why "we" are operating such-and-such a rig when, surely, it should be "I am operating.....". Another point is the breaker who cannot wait for the end of a sentence or 'over' before breaking in, or the station that comes back to a CQ call and then has absolutely nothing to talk about. I would much prefer that he did not cause an entry to be made in the log. I also think that the use of the 'Q' Code could be restricted except, of course, in contacts with stations who speak little English, although I must admit that I am probably as guilty of this misdemeanour as anyone.

Despite the above "moans", I think I get on well with my "on-the-air" contacts and I appreciate their help and tolerance. This also applies to the local amateurs here in Winchester. But perhaps my greatest thanks should go to my wife (I nearly said 'XYL!') for the many hours she has spent as secretary, meter-reader, log keeper, wire attacher, you-name-it-she'll-do-it. Without this help from her and all my amateur friends I would never have got on the air and I would certainly never have derived the pleasure from the hobby that I do.



SHOULD WE...?.

A note from a senior member of RSARS asks "Are we doing the right thing in signing "RSARS" or "Both stations RSARS" at the end of an over? - Do we give the impression of "being holier than thou" or do we assist other members looking for RSARS contacts?- Could non-RSARS stations consider that a call from them was not welcomed?. If we are looking for RSARS contacts, would not a "CQ RSARS" do the trick?. Comments from other members (and non-members!) welcome. To the Ed. please.

AWARDS AND CONTESTS REPORT.

G3EKL/0046.

I've done it again!!! - page 27 of "Mercury" No. 64 showed GW3XHJ as EUROPE SPECIAL SUPREME No.3. Finger trouble, I'm afraid, it is, in fact, No. 4. Seems as though the revised operating times and frequencies for our main contest have found favour. The four sessions of the 79/80 5-59 Contest have been well patronised and there are enough logs to warrant a closer scrutiny than usual. Have a look in "Tail End Charlie", the results should be available by then and thank you to all the members who kindly sent in check logs, (See bottom of Page 54).

I had a few words with Derek, G3UPY, during the 40 Metre CW 5-59 leg in January. He says that he has worked some 750 members either CW/CW or cross-mode but that QSL response is very disappointing. This is a great shame as Derek is a CW man ONLY and runs a "home-brew" station to a random length of wire. Yet he is consistent on all bands and winks out any members who can read morse. His QSL is perfectly valid to any other member for the "Any Mode" Ladder as a mixed contact (CW to SSB or whatever), whilst a full CW contact is obviously valid for the CW ladder also. I wonder why members are slow in responding to G3UPY's QSL's?- (A recent check at G3DPS - after a concerted QSL effort both direct and via both Bureaux shows the following returns: VHF - 92.3%, SSB - 83.4% and CW 57.1%. Does make you think about CW QSLing. doesn't it?).

The "4 kW Award" for QRP work during 1979 has again gone to G3BWX who has progressed from the 70 rung up to the 100 rung and shown proof of QSO's up to 120+, I'll reopen the QRP Ladder over 100 for any other interested "QRM reducing addicts" and see how things go. Well done, Alex!.

Another winner for the year is G3DBU. Bill has made the Most Overall Progress on the Awards Ladders during 1979 and so has been awarded "MOP 1979", He scored 200 on the "Any Mode" Ladder, 100 - 300; 12 on the CW Ladder and obtained both SPECIAL EUROPE and SPECIAL BRONZE EUROPE during the year, that's 1 - 300, so a grand total of 512 points for the year. Well done, Bill, now take some time off, enjoy yourself and give Thelma a chance.

The Awards Scheme has been running now for over 10 years and was originally devised to generate contact between members and those luckier ones who were overseas. At that time we had more serving members abroad but this situation has progressively reduced - I don't need to tell you why!!!. To assist those of you chasing overseas members, Rule 5 is relaxed retrospectively to allow contact between Zone 14 and ANY CALL-SIGN outside Zone 14. For example, Member 0090 has worked Member 0282 VS5MC (one contact) and as VS6AA (second contact), etc. Rule 5 was so worded to prevent a roaming member in Zone 14 claiming a possible half a dozen or so contacts with one overseas member/call-sign - for example, MP4TDA being worked by G3NKO, GM3NKO, GI3NKO, GW3NKO. DLS--, etc. I hope this relaxation will help some of you. At the same time I must clarify Rule 1. I do NOT accept SWL reports as confirmation for two-way contact from licensed members. Reason? MP4TDA could work G3DPS and obtain a QSL card from G3DPS, plus half a dozen SWL reports for the same QSO, then submit seven reports for the one QSO!. Alright, so I'm a tight devil, but somebody has to interpret the rules!!!.

Progress on the Ladders since the last "Mercury" up to 1 Feb 80 are:-

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| EUROPE SPECIAL SUPREME No. 5 | - | G3XSN |
| EUROPE SPECIAL BRONZE | - | G6RC, G3NVK, G3DBU |
| EUROPE SPECIAL | - | G2WQ |
| EUROPE CW 100 | - | G3XSN |
| EUROPE CW 50 | - | GM3PIP |
| EUROPE CW 25 | - | G3NOB, G6RC |

AWARDS AND CONTEST REPORT - Contd.

EUROPE "ANY MODE" STICKERS

- 300 LEVEL STICKER - G3NVK, G3NOB, G6RC, G3DBU.
- 250 LEVEL STICKER - GM3PIP.
- 200 LEVEL STICKER - G2WQ.
- 1ST CLASS AWARD - G4EMX, G2WQ.
- BASIC AWARD - G4ICC, GM3KNX.

Congratulations to you all, particularly G3XSN. Thank you for your charming letter, Bert; I am a little dubious about the correspondence from M.T., although I do agree with the remarks!!, (The OWL reports that he believes that the letter referred to might lead readers to believe that a certain leading Lady not only congratulated Bert on the award of the European Special Supreme No.5 Award, but actually opined that Bert is better looking than his twin brother Gerry, G4IHS. He also reports that photographic analysis of both contestants on his GLA-meter (Good Looking Analysis Meter) produced the following read-out:-

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ANALYSIS. RUN 1.      G3XSN V G4IHS

OVERALL ANALYSIS:    G3XSN - 9.784
                     G4IHS - 9.785

END OF RUN.....
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Sorry, Bert, it looks as if you were pipped at the post!.

The Ladders/Awards details for this edition are given below. The Europe Special Ladder List is in sequence for the award of the 200 level EUROPE SPECIAL AWARD PLAQUE - i.e. No.1, G3XSN - No.2, G8VG ,.... No.28, G3MAY, No.29, G2WQ.

EUROPE SPECIAL.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| No.1 | G3XSN | - 200, 300, 400, 500. | No.16 | G3WXX | - 200, 300 |
| No.2 | G8VG | - 200, 300, 400. | No.17 | G2TT | - 200. |
| No.3 | G3HWL | - 200. | No.18 | G3VSA | - 200. |
| No.4 | G3UAA | - 200, 300, 400, 500. | No.19 | G3KJW | - 200. |
| No.5 | GM3PIP | - 200. | No.20 | G6RC | - 200, 300. |
| No.6 | G3YSK | - 200, 300, 400, 500. | No.21 | G8TK | - 200. |
| No.7 | G3JVD | - 200. | No.22 | G3NVK | - 200, 300. |
| No.8 | GW3ASW | - 200, 300, 400, 500. | No.23 | GM3VVM | - 200. |
| No.9 | G2KK | - 200, 300, 400. | No.24 | G3PJB | - 200, 300. |
| No.10 | G3YBT | - 200, 300. | No.25 | G4DBR | - 200. |
| No.11 | GW3XHJ | - 200, 300, 400, 500. | No.26 | G3DBU | - 200, 300. |
| No.12 | G3EYD | - 200. | No.27 | G3ADZ | - 200. |
| No.13 | G2HKU | - 200. | No.28 | G3MAY | - 200. |
| No.14 | G3WMZ | - 200. | No.29 | G3WQ | - 200. |
| No.15 | GM3HGA | - 200, 300. | | | |

OVERSEAS SPECIAL.

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|------|------------|------------------|
| No.1 | VS6AA/0282 | - 100. | No.4 | 9M2DQ/0300 | - 100. |
| No.2 | MP4TAF/0588 | - 100. | No.5 | 9H1BX/0413 | - 100, 150, 200. |
| No.3 | MP4TDA/0046 | - 100, 150. | | | |

A.D. 2035 - AND ALL THAT.

(The OWL recently returned from one of his trips. carrying the following. All he would say is that Les Hivers had given it to him and that Les had promised a £2 Stores voucher to the writer of the first correct solution opened one month after publication from a U.K./European member and another member has promised a £2 Stores voucher for the first correct solution opened from an Overseas member three months after publication. So, get those pencils and thinking caps out!. - Ed.).

Imagine, if you will, the 75th Annual General Meeting of RSARS at the new Space Complex, Catterick.

GM3VVM has just bought another round of drinks to celebrate his W.A.P. (Worked All Planets) and again tells us how long it took 0SN6HSNG/P, Member 8726 to send his card from Saturn to complete the Award. The Past (Long Past it - Ed.) President, Brig. Gen. Sir Raymond (Ray) Webb (Rtd) calls all to lunch.

By chance 5 aged members find themselves at the same table (with the same plastic eating "irons" - Ed.) each with a different coloured chair.

From, the info (archaic terminology meaning data processing logic supply) can you discover the call-signs of each member, his current radio interest, his wife's name and what colour chair he sat on????.

CLUES.

1. The interest of G3WKM needed neither wheels or low power and he did not sit in the black chair.
2. The blue chair's occupant is married to Gladys but he does not have an interest in /M working.
3. Ruth travelled with her husband during which time he was operating.
4. G3EKL is now married to Sandra and G3NVK is still interested in HF DX working.
5. RTTY noise upsets Nellie and G3UAA does not create it.
6. The green chair was not occupied by Sheila's OM. and the Yellow chair which was not seating G3EKL was occupied by a VHF man.
7. G3DPS sat in the red chair whilst the QRP addict sat in the black chair.

Solutions to the Editor, please ('cos I don't know where Les Hivers lives!).



CALLING RSARS de VK2NLE

Dated 01/02/80

For some 146 days I have been calling "RSARS" usually around 21·170 Plus or Minus QRM commencing at 10:30 GMT after Renee and I have had our quota of TV... Why?.

Two to three years ago my brother-in-law Stan (now VK2NJY) told me that he had bought himself a Tandy "Realistic" receiver and that he was listening to "Hams" from all over the world. That awakened a dormant memory from around the mid thirties when I had a small American superhet radio, I think it was called an 'Air-Chief'. It cost me £6.10.0. from the distributor who had premises around the back of Charring Cross Rd in London. £6.10.0. represented 2 weeks wages; I worked for my Father in the family furniture business and that was good pay - I was fifteen then. I also remember a radio that my Dad purchased around 1926, it was a Mullard "straight 4" - I had to take the accumulator to the local bike shop to get it charged for 3d; we also had some block batteries for that set, I think 2 x 60 volts - I was about 5 years old then. I remember buying my first call book, it was about a £1 and I used to listen to both sides during the Spanish civil war; sent both sides signal reports and received my first QSL cards in 1935-6. Their cards were of course full of propaganda; I also received a card from a YL in New York, just prior to the war but unfortunately I lost the card when our house in Stoke-Newington was bombed. The 'Air-Chief' radio was long and medium wave only if I remember and at that time was quite small for such a fine receiver.

CALLING RSARS de VK2NLE - Contd.

Back to to-day, I listened on Stan's "Realistic" receiver and realised that I was more than interested, so I went out, made a few enquiries and came home with an FRG 7. After a comparatively short time I realised that listening was not good enough for me and I found out that there was a course being held every Saturday for about four months for aspiring novices so I went and enrolled and after a lot of frustration obtained my certificate of proficiency and was allocated the call-sign VK2NLE. I then purchased a Kenwood 820, put up an 18AVT and started spending many hours contacting "Hams" on the local 80 metres net where I discovered the ex 'G' club and the Australian branch of the RNARS. Then the bug bit and I started working 'DX'. Shortly after that the big day came and up went the TH3; it took me three months to get permission from the local Council to erect it despite the most detailed plans shown to the Council by my Architect; I must admit that the delay was really caused by the fact that I never asked permission to put the 18 AVT up. Since then I have had the local building Inspector in the shack and made him the second operator here whilst in QSO with W9TVK... He is now a good friend and when I put up a quarter wave vertical for 10 and 15 metres I rang him up and asked if it was necessary to put in a plan for Council - "No, go straight ahead" he replied. The moral - always ask first!!

One day in Oct 1979 I was sitting in the shack when I heard a strong 5 and 9 plus signal coming in and was soon having an enjoyable QSO with Tom, G6VQ (unfortunately now a S.Key). We had many QSO's before I found out about RSARS. I joined very smartly: the one thing that I regret is that I only had one contact with Tom after receiving my RSARS number. Since the daily QSO's started I have had some 357 QSO's with 83 different stations and have had 60 confirmed. I am very pleased with the high return rate, which is a credit to all members; what I do appreciate so very much is how G6UC and G4HLC come up every day and while I am having QSO's with other stations 'Police' the frequency so that I and other member stations can continue without QRM. Thank you very much. Regular contacts have been with G6UC 41, G4HLC 45, G3NVK 22, G3UAA 9, G2DSM 19, G3SAX 7, G3NKO 6 (plus LA 1 contact) last but certainly not least G3XSN in Liverpool 9 (plus 3 as G3XSN/M); there are of course many other regulars who call in to give me quick report.

I am typing this at home, it is Sunday and things are very peaceful. I have just finished listening to the tape that Frank VK2NGY has recorded for Mercury (see later editions - Ed), he is "Crest No.2", which briefly means that he does all the organising for the CB'ers as regards the emergency calls etc, he is ably assisted by my daughter Bobby - they continually monitor the emergency channel 24 hours a day. CB is welcome here by local authorities for bush fires, accidents on the road etc - remember that one often goes on journeys here for hours at a time without seeing a soul. I know from personal experience when the car I was driving some 150 miles from the largest town seemed an awful long way from civilisation after I hit three kangaroos; we were stranded for three hours before anybody came along - that was some seven years ago before CB was thought about. It will probably be that the ones who will profit from CB radio in the UK will be the middlemen, out to make a quick dollar, who will unload all the rubbish that has been rejected by other countries. Frank, in his tape, is somewhat biased and says the impression that all CB'ers are goodie goodies is far from true - I know of a case where they cut the Coax cable of an amateur who they thought was jamming their signals. But since it has been legalised the thrill has dropped out of it for many, happier to be licensed operators. To conclude I hope that the next 146 days give me as much pleasure as I have had in the past and again thank you all.

VK2NLE Les Simons.



ROYAL NAVAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY - MOBILE RALLY.

The R.N.A.R.S. will be holding their 1980 Rally at H.M.S. Mercury near Petersfield on Sunday June 15th from 10:00 hours until 17:00 hours. If you can get along there why not drop in and show the R.S.A.R.S. flag?. Further details from the Organiser - W. Walker, G4DIU, 9 Woodstock Road, Bedhampton, Havant, PO9 3HX, or telephone Havant 479464.

RSGB RADCOMEX 1980 - ALEXANDRA PALACE - MAY 9th/10th.

The Corps will have a recruiting stand at the RSGB Radcomex at Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, North London, on May 9th and 10th. The Society will be represented on this stand by the usual gang of 'appy 'elpers. See you there?????

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members have joined, or rejoined, the Society since the membership list printed in "Mercury" No. 63,

0821 - G3WRU. 1432 - NL. 1433 - G4HWQ. 1434 - G8SIL. 1435 - G3BSF
1436 - NL. 1437 - NL. 1438 - G3CAX. 1439 - NL. 1440 - GD4IHB.
1441 - G4CNP. 1442 - NL. 1443 - VE3KID. 1444 - G3HRV 1445 - NL.

1446 - G3ASM. 1447 - NL. 1448 - G3SNY. 1449 - G3PEC. 1450 - G38NU.
1451 - ZL3AGB. 1452 - NL. 1453 - NL. 1454 - NL. 1455 - G88XQ.
1456 - GJ8TDT. 1457 - GM3NEQ. 1458 - NL. 1459 - G8IVI.
 1460 - G3GZG.
1461 - NL. 1462 - GW4ITJ. 1463 - NL. 1464 - G4HNF. 1465 - NL.
1466 - G4IOP. 1467 - NL. 1468 - G2CG. 1469 - GM3CVJ. 1470 - NL.
1471 - NL. 1472 - NL. 1473 - GI8TRV. 1474 - NL. 1475 - G8SWL.
1476 - NL. 1477 - G3WVW. 1478 - G8UKU. 1479 - G4IXC. 1480 - NL.
1481 - G4IVR. 1482 - NL. 1483 - VK3DGS. 1484 - NL. 1485 - NL.

A hearty welcome to you all.

DONATIONS.

The following lists members who have kindly donated sums to the Society funds during the four months ending 29th February 1980.

0089 Ross 0167 Lauhlin 0268 Llewellyn 0290 Addie
0316 Brown 0362 Airey 0742 MacDonald 0879 Osborne
1185 Sarjanston 1284 Buxton 1411 Scaife 1422 Simonds

Many thanks - your generosity is much appreciated.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

WARNING.

This room is infected with
AMATEURITIS

There is no known cure

Symptoms : Raging desire to exercise the microphone finger and to flip the transceiver 'On' switch; a tendency to mutter the expression "CQ" constantly quoting QST magazine or RadCom; ability to quench thirst with something other than water; eagerness to do unreal things.

All persons are hereby warned that exposure to the Amateur Operator located in this room puts one in great danger of being quickly infected with this malady.

(Compliments of Dorothy, WD5AHE, 1217 Valencia Drive N.E., Albuquerque, N.M., USA 87110.

(14.325 MHz, 21.419 MHz & 2M)

CQ DE CW NET CONTROL.

From Doug, G3KLX, comes the following : "Perhaps you would like a little information on the progress of the 80 Metre CW Net which I took over from Dennis, G3ADZ, in July 1979. We are now in the healthy position of attracting 15 to 20 members each Wednesday evening. Two recent visitors have been G3NKO/LA (Ron) and 9HIBB (Law), Law calls in after 22:00 GMT (owing to TVI) but anyone who can QRX until then will be sure of a new one in Law. Thanks to all the stalwarts whom I always address as the "the Brave and the Bold". No matter what the conditions they are always "on parade". It makes my job much more palatable!! We even have the attendance of G3DPS occasionally to swell the ranks!!!. 73 to all Doug.

5-59 1979/80 and Le Touquet - Provisional Results

5-59 Overall winner - G3NVK; LE Touquet - G3UAA, 5-59 Fone - G4ETG

From "Down under" comes the following news item.

DETAILS OF APRIL 1 CHANGEOVER TO METRIC TIME.

Readers will no doubt be aware that from midnight on 1st April New Zealand will convert to Metric Time. To assist readers in adapting to the changeover, we publish below details of new units.

From midnight on 1st April, there will be 10 seconds to the minute, 10 minutes to the hour, 10 hours to the day, and so on. Units smaller than one second will be unchanged, as they already conform to the metric system; milliseconds, microseconds, etc. The new units for the larger intervals of time are as shown in the following table: -

| <u>IMPERIAL</u> | <u>METRIC</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Second | Milliday |
| Minute | Centiday |
| Hour | Deciday (or millimonth) |
| Day | Day |
| Week | Decaday |
| Month | Hectaday |
| Year | Kiloday |
| Millenium | Megaday |

The fortnight has been withdrawn.

Obviously from the viewpoint of employers, due to the fact that one new hour represents only 5/12th of an old one, employees might be expected to work longer, viz. 3.3 decadays or millimonths per day. However, as this is inconvenient for administration and payroll purposes it is intended that the luncheon break will be shortened by 0.66 of a new hour, thus making a total daily working time of 1 new hour (1.00 decadays).

It is not expected at this time that any compensatory uplift will be made to salaries, except in the case of leap kilodays, where an adjustment will be built in at the end of the hectaday every 1.45 decamonths. Pension schemes will not be affected, but superkilo-daynation schemes will be adjusted to allow for the greater frequency of employee contributions.

It is not intended that either private individuals or companies will be eligible for compensation payments to assist with the conversion of clock faces, watches, timers or other equipment to suit the new units.

However arrangements have been made for the Government printer to produce stick-on metric clock faces, in white paper. These will be made available through, Post Offices, in 10 standard sizes, on the morning of April 1st.

Further bulletins dealing with specific aspects of the conversion to Metric Time will be published by the appropriate Authority as the need arises. In any case, the office of the Authority will be in a position to deal with telephone enquiries from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the morning of April 1st"

(I thought it was only the EEC who were metric mad! - Ed).



CQ DE G3EYD

During a recent CW QSO, Ted, G3EYD, who used to be a regular visitor to the RSARS SSB Nets, asked the editor to pass along his best wishes to all members and old members and old friends, Ted has recently undergone several illnesses which have left him such that SSB is not a viable proposition at present. However, his keying hand appears to be as good as ever and he is keen to meet old friends around 15:00 clock time daily on the low end of the 80 Metre CW band. (Your Editor found him on 3.506 MHz.).

TAIL END CHARLIE

(Odds bobs from Headquarters)

(a) Two of our "white stick" members got a very nice mention in the Brighton "Evening Argus" last February. George, G4AWI, must have made an impression with the YL reporter because a very interesting and, for a change, factual report was made about George and his amateur radio activities. Stan, G2DPY, got a mention too and between them should have sparked a little interest regarding the hobby in East Sussex. George taught me one thing - that the Russian woodpecker is intended to block American transmissions; listening as I do 20 metres upwards I thought it blocked any bodies transmissions and the sooner the OWL finds that b... woodpecker and kills it the better!!

(b) To all members who sent Christmas and New Year greetings to HQ, whether by card, letter or QSP on the air "Thank you most kindly". It is very heartening to receive praise and good wishes from you and we shall do our level best to carry on in the same way. I reply to many members who need a definite answer but please excuse me for not answering a straight subscription plus "Salaams"!! Should you require acknowledgement of your subscription, then please send in your membership card which I can sign and return.

(c) In an attempt to keep the postal charges down I am sending all overseas "MERCURY" at "small packet" rate - in other words in an open condition. This will save about £12 per posting. Should any overseas members find "MERCURY" arriving in too mutilated a condition to be of use, please let me know.

(d) January is one hell of a month as shoals of subscriptions come pouring in. For a lot of you, and certainly for me, a bank standing order would be much easier. So if you make a cash/cheque payment each year and have a bank account why not change to a regular standing order? RSARS bank is the MIDLAND BANK, (Code 40-12-18) BLANDFORD FORUM, DORSET. RSARS A/C No is 00713309.

Please quote your RSARS number on your standing order. I have standing order forms here should you want one.

(e) If any LIFE members wish to opt out of receiving "MERCURY" please let me know - this no way inhibits membership.

(f) To those members who normally receive a cassette of "MERCURY" may I please apologise for the hiccup in the service over the last few months brought about by the cassette reader being inundated with three things - too much work, postings and a ready made family! Yes - Dave, G4CGS, has taken unto himself an "XYL" plus three harmonics; may we wish Dave belated but none the less sincere congratulations and may he enjoy his retirement from the Corps.

(g) G3FSN/1239, operates an exhibition station from his local school each year. Alan has little spare time and isn't often on the air but any member looking for 1239 should find him on June 14th - it will be his own callsign and any contact will be very welcome.

(h) Society stores - despite the postal charge increment, our QSL cards are still a bargain. I saw an ad in P.W. the other month for their advertising type QSL cards which, with overprint, work out at £10 for 500 or £16 per 1000 - and that was BEFORE the February postal rises.

(j) I frequently get land-line calls from members. One such call late February, was from G3LQC/494 who had taken over my shack lock, stock and barrel in 1948 when I left behind VS1EA and he opened up as VS1CO. He was calling from the Catterick Bridge Hotel, could we have an "eye-ball"? We hadn't seen each other for over thirty years and despite some violent motions of the lounge lamps, the management didn't raise a bill for damages!!

G3LQC, Ray, is a very enthusiastic 3cm man and skeds almost daily with G6XM/748. Both would like to hear from any other 3cm orientated members in the Society - do we have any? Please contact either Ray or Bill who are both QTHR.

Ray

G3EKL
General Secretary

RSARS STORES PRICE LIST - Effective 1 APRIL 1980

| | Price | | UK/BFPO Postage & Packing | | Total | |
|--|--------------|----|---------------------------------|----|-------|----|
| | £ | p | £ | p | £ | p |
| 100 Sheets of Headed Notepaper | 1 | 50 | | 50 | 2 | 00 |
| 500 Sheets of Headed Notepaper | 5 | 00 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 25 |
| 100 Basic QSL cards or index cards | | 75 | | 40 | 1 | 25 |
| 250 Basic QSL cards or index cards | 1 | 75 | | 85 | 2 | 60 |
| 500 Basic QSL cards or index cards | 3 | 10 | 1 | 40 | 4 | 50 |
| 1000 Basic QSL cards or index cards | 6 | 00 | 1 | 60 | 7 | 60 |
| 500 Overprinted QSL cards | 6 | 60 | 1 | 40 | 8 | 00 |
| 1000 Overprinted QSL cards | 10 | 40 | 1 | 60 | 12 | 00 |
| 1 Flat RSARS Badge (enamelled) | | 40 | | 25 | | 65 |
| 1 Call-sign Lapel Badge (enamelled with pin on reverse) | 1 | 00 | | 25 | 1 | 25 |
| 1 RSARS Tie | 2 | 65 | | 25 | 2 | 90 |
| 1 RSARS Station Log Book | | 60 | | 25 | | 85 |
| 3 RSARS Station Log Books | 1 | 65 | | 65 | 2 | 30 |
| 5 RSARS Station Log Books | 2 | 60 | | 90 | 3 | 50 |
| 1 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Book | | 40 | | 25 | | 65 |
| 3 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Books | 1 | 00 | | 65 | 1 | 65 |
| 5 RSARS Mobile (Pocket size) Log Books | 1 | 60 | | 90 | 2 | 50 |
| 1 RSARS Dymo Badge (1 Row) | | 25 | | 25 | | 50 |
| 1 RSARS Dymo Badge (2 Row) | | 40 | | 25 | | 65 |
| 1 RSARS Windscreen Sticker | | 35 | | 25 | | 60 |
| 2 RSARS Windscreen Stickers | | 60 | | 25 | | 85 |
| Great Circle Bearing/Distance Chart | 1 | 50 | 1 | 00 | 2 | 50 |
| Awards and Contest Rules | - FREE - SAE | | | | | |
| Membership Call-sign List | - FREE - SAE | | | | | |

NB. POSTAL RATES ARE NOT OVERSEAS RATES

HEARD ON THE AIR.

A QSO is in progress. A station comes on frequency and starts to call "CQ". First station "We appear to have an alligator on frequency" Second station "An alligator?,". First station "Yes, all mouth and no ears". Exit third station

~~0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0~~

And finally the answers to "Do you know" on page 11.

- (a) The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's became The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) on amalgamation.
- (b) The Corps of Royal Engineers.
- (c) 7th (Princess Royal's Dragoon Guards and 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars.
- (d) All raised in 1685.

"SIGNALS NETS" or Where you might find them!

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

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

L.F. NETS

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

L.F. NETS

CW

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

HIGH FREQUENCY NETS PHONE

| | | |
|-------|------|-------------|
| DAILY | 1230 | 21175 kHz ± |
| | GMT | |

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.

In E Midlands please listen S16 (145.4 MHz) each Wednesday 2000 Hrs

ACTIVITY SUNDAY

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

SLOW MORSE TRANSMISSIONS - From G4RS each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 1900 Clock time on 3565 and 144.25 MHz (beaming NE or SE)

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

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