



The VMARS News Sheet

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M0VMMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Bletchley Park will be the venue for AGM 2010 (4th July), the 2010 VMARS Lecture, Special Event Station, and exhibition (see below).

From Our Chairman

I would like to begin by welcoming seventeen new Members who have applied over the past two months. This includes a number of past Members, and those who have seen our activities through rallies, meetings, and on the internet. You are all most welcome, and I hope that VMARS can reflect your interests; equally we hope that you will engage with the Society and put your own 'stamp' on what we do.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that VMARS will be taking part in the Armed Forces Weekend (3rd-4th July 2010) at Bletchley Park. Overall the arrangements are similar to those of last year. There will be a small marquee for a special event station and another larger marquee for a display of military communications (not just radio) 'through the ages'. Both marquees will have a connection to aerials, one tuned to 80 m (a dipole) and another, probably a loop, for 5 MHz.

We have been invited to set up a station in a small marquee for the Saturday Morning Net and to mount a display. Offers

of display material are very welcome, and please do not restrict to radio; telephones, heliographs, etc., would all be welcome. We have also been invited to exhibit vehicles. We have learnt a number of lessons from last year and should be able to command a larger number of exhibits. The vehicles will be a back-drop to re-enactment activity during both days, and the main aerials will be available to those who need to connect. As was the case last year, camping will be available on site from Friday to Sunday, but Thursday to Monday is possible by arrangement.

Bletchley Park have kindly offered the Ballroom for our AGM from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Sunday 4th July, and it has been agreed that this will be the time and venue for the meeting. We have also been invited to provide the 2010 VMARS Lecture in the Ballroom on Sunday at 12.00 noon. The subject is "military communications through the ages". It will be non-technical as it is to be aimed at the Public. Admission to the AGM will be free, and concessionary one day entry for VMARS Members to the whole site is offered as last year. If you would like to be involved by exhibiting either in the marquee, or by bringing your vehicle, please can you contact myself or the Membership Secretary to discuss.

Turning now to more sombre aspects, it is inevitable that, from time to time, we hear of Members who have become SK. I am writing to ask you to let us know of such news so that we can send a letter of condolence to the late Member's family on behalf of the Society, as well as offer our help in disposing of any equipment. As you will know, we have

conducted a number of SK auctions, and can assure those who engage with us that they will get a good deal (e.g., by setting reserves on the selling price).

Such sales also ensure that the equipment is made available to Members and so remains with those who will look after it. Over the past two to three years we have learnt, by chance, of the passing of Members, and have seen their treasured equipment traded by our Members almost everywhere except VMARS media. Whereas we would not wish to restrict colleagues the freedom to make private arrangements with the families of deceased friends, we would ask everyone to consider seriously VMARS as a means of disposing of such property in a sensitive and effective manner.

Stuart McKinnon, GOTBI

Canvey Island Rally, 7th February 2010

An informative stand was manned by Len Maunder, G4KRX, and Pete Shepherd, G7DXV. This is probably the first time that VMARS have had a display at this rally. The idea arose through discussion about promoting VMARS in the South East; a good idea, and thanks go to the Committee for allowing this stand to go ahead.

A prime spot had been allocated at the front of the main hall, next to the RAIBC charity stand, which both Len and myself also support. We had a small display consisting of a BC342, the Clansman PRC352, and my rare to see Plessey 4300 and 5300 sets. The Plessey sets were operational (no mains required). A selection of VMARS publications was also on display to show to the public what the Society is about, and to reflect the quality of information and help that the Society can provide to Members.



Pete Shepherd G7DXV (right) and Len Maunder G4KRX (centre) in action at the Rally

The Canvey Rally has always been hailed as one of the premier rallies, and is always well attended. This fact was demonstrated by the 450-500 people coming through the doors. The success of this rally has been due to the quality of traders, the efforts of the organisers, and that it always has been an event at the front end of the year, when people have recovered from Christmas and the New Year sales panic and blues.

The VMARS stand attracted many interested visitors. There were many old friends who called, and many new friends were made through the discussions about the Society and what we do. Interesting conversations from many an OT about various bits of 'surplus' equipment which they used when they were gainfully employed by the Armed Forces.

One conversation that sticks in the mind is the tale of the tuning of an R1475 with the left hand, with the morse key in the right!



A good selection of VMARS publications was on display

Many VMARS Members made themselves known to us during the morning; some I knew and recognised, some I met for the first time. I counted about 20 Members. Not bad for this 'neck of the woods'.

Hopefully the Rally has been seen as a worthy venture with new memberships being taken up. A number of people had shown great interest in what we do and took application forms. Let us hope they fill them in and apply for membership. *[Indeed, one such new Member has already sent in his form and made very positive comments about the helpful advice and warm welcome on the stand. Ed]*

With thanks to Mike Buckley for the photographs

Pete Shepherd, G7DXV

Visit to CRASH40-45 Air-War and Resistance Museum, Holland

During his recent annual pilgrimage to Holland for the Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Surplus Radio Society, our Chairman Stuart McKinnon, GOTBI, was invited to a preview of the new radio room of the CRASH Air-War and Resistance Museum.



The Museum, close to Schiphol Airport, is housed in one of the forts of the World Heritage 'Amsterdam Stellingen', a ring of forts surrounding Amsterdam which was built to defend the city a century or so ago.

The Museum is full of the remains of aircraft which crashed in Holland during the WW2, as well as details of the history of each of the crashes (a list of all the aircraft recovered can be found on their website, http://www.crash40-45.nl/museum_nl/bergingen.htm). As well as the aircraft,

there is a section related to Resistance activities in the Netherlands during the war.

The Museum recently moved from smaller premises to this location, and since the move, has been busy building up an active amateur radio 'Radio Room' using vintage radio equipment, thanks to the help of a small group of radio amateurs.



Operators Gerrit, PA0JGC, Herman, PH1DTC, and Trevor PA3BOH

The Radio Room has been made in the form of a fictional WW2 Bomber Command Watch Tower, and contains the working radio equipment. Additional radio equipment is also on display in cabinets alongside.



The main set in the radio room is a Collins 618T aircraft transceiver. Not quite wartime, but by virtue of its 400 W SSB output, it is very suitable for making both local and long distance QSO's. An R1155/T1154, mounted on a mock-up of the Lancaster installation, is in the course of being brought into a working condition.

Throughout the Museum are displays of parts excavated from crash sites together with stories about the mission, the crew, etc. Amongst these parts are many aircraft radio parts. Items such as an R1155 loop antenna control wheel, TR9 control lever, IFF MK3, AI set, Gee set, TR1143, Monica, Mn 26, FuG10, from aircraft such as a Stirling, Mosquito, Ventura, and Ju88.

Stuart was invited for a lightning tour of the premises on his way to the SRS meeting, but of course still managed to find time to have a go on the 618T. By chance (of course) his visit coincided with the VMARS Saturday Morning Net, so he was able to get a signal report from Alan G4GEN (a fan of the

618T) and Mike G4EJM, and also from Roel PE1BFI close by in Hoofddorp, working with a BC-191.

The CRASH40-45 Museum is open every Saturday. Directions to the museum can be found on http://www.crash40-45.nl/museum_nl/adres/start.htm

The station is on the air on 80 m (on 3.705 Mc/s) every Wednesday.

The station will be on the air on 80 m (also on 3.705 Mc/s) and on the higher bands for the official opening on 8th March with the special event call sign PI9CRASH.

Trevor Sanderson, PA3BOH

Stuart writes the following –

We have been lucky to have visited well over half a dozen military/signals-related Museums on the Continent and we were extremely impressed at the very high standards of this fledgling Museum.



Trevor and all the other volunteers will always give you a very warm welcome and you are guaranteed to have a very interesting visit, and the canteen facilities are not bad either! Just a stone throw from Schiphol!

Stuart McKinnon, GOTBI

Operation from Bass Point, The Lizard

13th February 2010

Many thanks for the patience demonstrated by all of you during my recent attempt to transmit from the Marconi Wireless Station at Bass Point, on the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, Britain's most Southerly point.

Herewith my report of events.

I travelled with my wife, Julie, from my home in Worcester, arriving at the rented cottage in Lizard Village around 6 p.m. on the Friday evening, 12th February. We had to make a slight detour on the way down, about 12 miles from our destination, to collect the keys to the station from the Manager, Mr. David Barlow, G3PLE.

It was too late to set anything up on the Friday evening, so we decided to get comfortable in the cottage and set up early the next morning, ready for the Saturday Morning Net.

We were up at 6 a.m. and got to the site around 7.15 a.m. After evaluating the site, and sorting out how we were going to arrange things, we got out the Racal 8 m mast and starting erecting it with all of the guys, etc., hammering in the stakes where we could find earth and not concrete!



Eventually, the inverted dipole was hoisted aloft and the feeder cable was routed into the doorway to the historic hut. We could not feel our fingers at this point and the subsequent cup of hot coffee from the prepared flask was a very welcome departure.



I unpacked the Clansman 320 manpack set and placed it onto the desk in front of me. The feeder was plugged in and the frequency was selected, 3.615 MHz AM. After switching on and letting the set settle down, nothing was heard at around 08:00 hrs.

We listened again from 08:00 hrs onwards, but only got white noise. The set appeared to be sending RF but there was nothing being received. Fortunately, we had already agreed a backup plan, and I switched on the commercial set used in the station by the Radio Operators Association. Their website is: www.roass.org

I immediately heard the familiar sounds of the usual suspects coming through the speaker and I was able to make contact with G4GEN (Alan) with not too much trouble. Various other operators were then calling in and being

logged. When it got to my turn in the list, I transmitted but was not heard.

I was able to hear everyone on the net but had serious problems getting out on the Kenwood, a set that I was unfamiliar with, so by twisting a few knobs and pressing in of a number of "pretty" buttons, eventually I got through to Stuart, G0TBI, and John, 2E0XER.

In conclusion: although I can state that I did in fact make contact, this was not as a result of trying the military set, only on the commercial Kenwood, supplied by the Radio Operators Association. Due to my unfamiliarity with the equipment, I can boast only about 70% success rate, and a big fat nil for the Clansman 320.

I traced the problem of the non-contact Clansman set to a faulty coax feeder cable terminating into a 90° BNC plug (not touching correctly), found later in the week on returning home.

I have been invited to try again in the future, and this I plan to do either this year or sometime soon when I feel like travelling the 245 miles!

My special thanks go to Mr. David Barlow, the curator of the Marconi museum (GB2LD), for his kind assistance and permission to use the site.

Jeremy Carvill, 2E0JEM

Swansea Rally, 21st February 2010

Court (Cwrt) Herbert Leisure Centre, Neath



This year, the Swansea Rally was held at the nearby town of Neath on account of the usual venue, on the Sea Front, not being available following a fire. We travelled the previous day, so the event began on Saturday evening when visitors and locals met for dinner; thank you for the characteristic very warm welcome!

This rally is always well supported by VMARS Members and this year was no exception. The stand (at least 8 metres long!) was comprehensive in the range and age of equipment on display, and was augmented by an excellent video of other items from Members' shacks. This certainly is a model for future exhibitions. It was, indeed, very nice to meet with a number of Members who are prominent on the air with GW-callsigns, as well as those from the Midlands and the South West, for some serious technical talk. There were also many unusual bits and pieces for sale at the Rally, or at least I saw many that I had missed when triumphant colleagues showed me their trophies!

Bronek Wedzicha, MODAF

MVT Military and Flying Machines

7-8th August 2010 - Damyns Hall Aerodrome

We would like to invite you and your group members to our 2010 Essex MVT Military and Flying Machines Show. The show will be held on the 7th and 8th of August at Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Upminster, Essex and we would love you to come along. This year's show is already booking up fast with over 30 re-enactor groups already booked in and vehicles booking in quick. If you would like to take part, please return a booking form. If you would like a group area reserved then please contact me directly to arrange this for you. To make things more comfortable for the groups and vehicle owners who are staying overnight, we have got more toilets and catering than last year, and there will be Saturday night entertainment from 'Texas Tommy' with music from the 40's and 50's, which be free to all participants in our 700 person Marquee.

The confirmed groups attending: Thorpe Camp Radio Group; Living Field of Fire Anderson Shelter Enthusiasts; 14th Army Chindits; Essex at War Panzer 3 Tank; The Green Howards; The Tiger Tamers; 25th Bomb Disposal Co R.E.; Battle for Europe; Hopes Artillery; Panzer Lehr; Reconnaissance Scouts Group; UK Tank Club; The Coldstream Guards; Das Heer; The Breton Players; Bretons Model Flying Club; Autumn 44; Vickers Machine Gun Society; G503; The Hep Cats; The Grossdeutschland Armoured Reconnaissance Division; Desert Storm Medical Display; The Garrison

Plus: First World War trenches; 3 Replica static Spitfire; Replica V1 'Doodlebug'; Tank Rides; Heavy Tracked Armour; and the popular 'Armoured Column' both afternoons

A large display of rare WW2 heavy softskin vehicles; Quad Bikes; Children's 'Mini Jeep' and 'Mini Landrover' rides.; flour bombing for the public from a pre war Boeing Stearman Bi-plane; pleasure flights; helicopter rides; static ground running aircraft engines. an expected turnout of over 250 Military vehicles from all eras; flying displays; ME108; Spitfire; plus more to be confirmed

If you have any questions, please drop me a line at tracey_brew@sandp.com or give me a call on 01245 28910 any evening or visit <http://www.mvt-essex.org.uk/annual.htm>

Tracey Brew. Email: tracey_brew@standardandpoors.com

Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Aveley Road, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2TN is situated near the Essex/Kent border close to London, a few minutes drive within the M25. With the towns of Thurrock, Southend, Basildon, Upminster, and Chelmsford nearby and with easy access from the M25/A13/A127. Anyone wishing to bring a vehicle is asked to complete a vehicle booking-in form.

Callington Amateur Radio Society Rally

21st March 2010, Callington Community College

Attention, all West Country Members.

Callington Amateur Radio Society is holding its second annual rally on 21st March 2010, starting at 10.00 a.m. Last year was very successful with traders, refreshments, bring and buy, easy parking. It is at Callington Community College. Details are in the Events Calendar in the News Sheet, together with my contact numbers, if you get lost!

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Mike Bayliff, MOXGG

An international conference on the origins and evolution of the cavity magnetron

Bournemouth University, England, 19-20 April 2010

2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the development of the high-power cavity magnetron by Randall and Boot at Birmingham University, made into a practical device by the GEC Company in England and put into large-scale production in the USA following the Tizard Mission of 1940. Its origins go back to the mid-1930s with key work being done in Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and USA.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together knowledge of all this early work and to learn how the magnetron has been improved and put into service since then and will include:

- Origins of the magnetron in the various countries involved
- Its subsequent development, both in early and later days and the latest trends
- Applications to civil and military radar systems
- Other uses, such as microwave ovens

There will be an optional pre-conference visit to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford on 18th April.

Dr Eli Brookner (Raytheon, USA) has accepted an invitation as keynote speaker.

The conference is sponsored by The Defence Electronics History Society (DEHS), IET (History of Technology TPN), IEEE (UKRI Section Life Members Affinity Group and UKRI Microwave Theory, and Techniques/Electron Devices/Photonics/Antennas and Propagation Joint Chapter). IEEE History Centre, IEEE Region 8 History Council, and is supported by a grant from the IEEE Life Members Committee

For bookings please visit: <http://www.cavmag2010.org.uk/>

West Coast Military Radio Collectors Group



Brian, NI6Q, setting up his immaculate Zenith WS-19

For the past three years Dennis DuVall, W7QHO, of Glendale, California has been very kindly sending me an annual DVD of the activities of the West Coast Military Radio Collectors Group (MRCCG) of which he is a keen member. To crib from their web page, this group of Collectors, Restorers, and Users of Military Radios have been meeting for some years on the first weekend of May at San Luis Obispo, California. Rated as probably one of the best swap meets for military equipment around, they have

no dues, no formal organisation, just a common interest in military communication equipment. Members of the group give presentations and demonstrations of military radio equipment in the formal part of the meeting.

MRCG also have operating events and those shown on the DVDs are held annually and consist of (usually) pairs of stations and their operators/supporters setting up at points around the Californian coast, usually at or near sites of military interest, and working back to a control station. A formal message is relayed to check the quality of the links and operation is primarily on AM on the US 75 metre band around 3880 kHz, although some support links on low-band VHF FM and two-metre AM are used as well, also with vintage equipment. Obviously, American military equipment predominates, a BC-1306, SCR-284, and GRC-9 were active last year but usually a British-designed (but built by Zenith in the US) Wireless Set No 19 owned by NI6Q is on the air too. Dennis and his daughter make a video record of the activities and the video clips of the different stations form the major part of the DVDs.



Dave, WJ6W, operating his SCR-284

Watching the videos, it occurred to me that this would be a good event for VMARS to emulate, either for a local net or over a bigger area. We are well provided with ex-military sites around the UK and a lot of museums have permanent stations that could act as net control. Personally, discounting my "modern" Clansman radios, I could field three AM/CW stations today with little preparation, with a fourth under repair.

Anyway, this is just an idea and possibly there is not enough interest to mount such an event. I am offering, with Dennis' permission, to copy the videos onto disks for anyone who would like a copy; four disks are needed if you want the three years of DVDs I have, plus postage

If, after watching, you feel you'd like to "have a go" then contact me, I'm QTHR on the Member's List.

Roger Basford, G3VKM

Science Week Lectures at SYAM

Sunday 21st March 2010

A day of lectures and demonstrations on aircraft engines, including lunch (provided free), organised by the South Yorkshire Network of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. The lectures are in the form of historical reviews, and are meant for a general audience, from young to old, and are not in the form of detailed engineering analyses. The programme is as follows:

The evolution of aircraft piston engines (11.00 a.m.)

The first lecture, to be given by Dr Mike Diprose, looks at the development of aircraft piston engines from the early days of the 20th Century until the late 1940s. The demand for higher performance aircraft meant that more and more engine power was required, which basically meant burning more fuel. How the designs changed and the influence of advances in fuel, supercharging, turbocharging, and ignition on power output, will be reviewed. The rotary engine and its important impact on civil aviation will be described. It will include examples of components, models, and pictures and movies.

The Merlin Engine (12.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. when the Engine will be run)

Mr Peter Grieve has extensive experience of restoring aircraft engines. He has re-built several to ground running order and the integrated stands on which they travel and run. Some of the engines he has restored were from wrecks and were buried for perhaps 30 or 40 years. Some of the castings have had to be extensively repaired and have parts re-built or re-cast. Peter Grieve will give a 'walk-around' description of the engine, following which it will be removed from the hangar during lunch and set up for running at 14.00 hrs. The engine will also be run on Saturday 20th March, during the families day workshop - 'How Aeroplanes Fly'.

Steam engines for aircraft (2.30 p.m.)

Dr Mike Diprose will explain that, in the early days of aviation, the only engines available were steam engines. The advent of the internal-combustion engine enabled the rapid development of aircraft in the 20th Century but, perhaps surprisingly, designs for steam powered aircraft continued into the 1930s. The lecture reviews the use of steam for aircraft engines from the days of Stringfellow's models, through the ambitious concept of 'Henson's Aerial Steam Carriage', Ader's 'Eole', the proposed 2000 h.p. Aero Turbines rotary steam engine, to the first successful flight in 1933 of the Besler Brothers aircraft - capable of 100 mph and which could be reversed for parking!

Hess or not to Hess — who was in Spandau (4.00 p.m.)

The last presentation, given by Dr Mike Diprose, is a short review of books which claim that the prisoner in Spandau was not Hess, and did not commit suicide, but was murdered. In addition, a book describing the involvement of very senior political figures in inviting Hess to discuss an end to the war in 1941 is reviewed. This is meant more as an entertainment in the vein of 'conspiracy theory' to end the day, rather than an authoritative analysis of the arguments, and is meant to introduce the audience to the books (none of them written by the presenter).

Venue: The South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum, Doncaster Aeroventure, Dakota Way, Doncaster. (01302 761616)

To register, contact: mike.diprose@spectrum-tec.co.uk

The VMARS Archive

In response to last months request, the Archive Team has been joined by two new members – Martin Longmore, M6TML, and Alf Fisher, G3WSD, and both have already contributed to work on documents that have now been published on the website. In addition to the above, the Team now includes Paul Whiteley, M0PDW, Gerald Greatrix, G7HNM, William Blankley, G8CMK, Tony Waller, Chris Cooper, Mike Bayliff, M0XGG, and myself. We are developing a new system of collaborative working which hopefully will enable us to start working proactively again to

speed up publication of the long list of documents we have pending.

I would like to remind Members of two things – first, if you are looking for a particular manual, and it is not listed on the website, please ask the Archive directly, preferably by email to archivist@vmars.org.uk – using this address will direct the request to the right mailbox. If you do not have email facilities, call 01025 480006 – you may have to leave a message as I'm not here in the daytime and some evenings but I will get back to you as soon as possible. Note that we do not actively monitor any Yahoo groups for information requests.

Secondly, all of the Archive Members are volunteers and we do the work because we enjoy doing it, but we do have other things to do as well: no Member is expected to work under any kind of pressure. We will try to fulfil all requests as quickly as possible, but some large documents may take several weeks to process.

A final reminder that we have to restrict some documents to Members only because of copyright issues as explained on the website – to obtain these, please email a list of the document references to the above address – we will try our best to respond within 24 hours with the access keys for downloading the documents.

Colin Guy, G4DDI

Subscriptions renewals update

Thank you to all who have renewed their subscriptions. The majority of Members have now renewed, but what follows may come as a surprise to many, and is something which is causing an immense amount of work to rectify. Of the 30 or so Members who pay by standing order, a third have paid incorrect amounts corresponding to subscription rates from 2008 and 2009 typically, and some even have paid twice, forgetting that they have already paid by standing order! Similarly a significant number of the cheques received are at the 2009 rate, and a number of late payments did not include the excess of £2.50. The difference between the 2009 and 2010 rate is 50 p, which will be expensive (both in terms of time and postage) to recover, and the task of writing to those who have paid incorrectly in other ways (e.g., by omitting the late payment fee) is causing a backlog in dealing with membership records. There are also all those promises of 'cheques in the post' which have not yet arrived!

Broniek Wedzicha, M0DAF

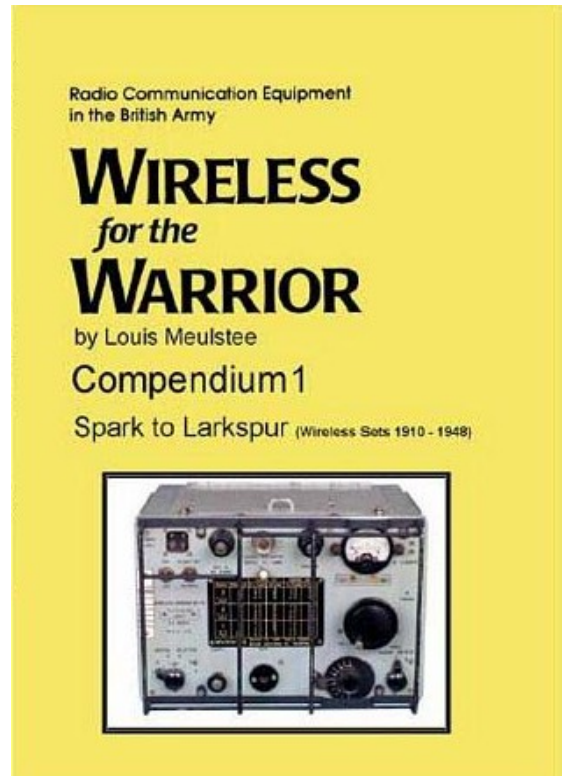
Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
7 th Mar	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
14 th Mar	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN
21 st Mar	GW8TBG	G8AQN	G1EDP
28 th Mar	G8AQN	G1EDP	M0TCM
4 th April	G1EDP	M0TCM	M0DAF
11 th April	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
18 th April	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN

Book Review

Wireless for the Warrior, Compendium 1 — Spark to Larkspur

By Louise Meulstee, PA0PCR



This is the first in a new series of handy reference books. In the introduction, Louise explains that for various reasons he would not be able to produce the planned new volumes of 'Wireless for the Warrior' on the scale of volumes 1 – 4, so he has taken a different approach by producing a pocket sized reference book containing just the essential data and photographs to aid equipment identification.

This first volume covers 1910 – 1948, beginning with spark transmission, progressing to CW, and then to R/T. Army wireless up to roughly 1916 was entirely spark telegraphy with the thermionic valve being relatively unknown until the middle of the War. Thereafter, CW began to appear in specialist areas, and it was not until after the War that R/T was tried. All of this is beautifully illustrated by the chronological progression of sets and ancillary equipment described in the Compendium.

The volume covers standard sets, experimental sets, and specialist equipment, and is copiously illustrated with photographs many never previously published, to aid identification of equipment. Basic information is given, including date of introduction, size and weight, power output, and much more, and there are often other tit-bits of information, such as expected range, manufacturer, etc., as well as notes on the design processes and organisation.

Ancillary items such as remote control boxes, aerial couplers and wavemeters are also covered, and three appendices cover the design, development, and testing facilities for Army wireless from 1906 to 1918, key, W/T No.8 and a foldout "Chart of Inter-relationship between Army Radios issued 1933 – 1948", as well as a description of the type nomenclature used by the British Army during the period covered.

I have found this book to be one of those that you can pick up and browse at any time and always pick up a new bit of information, and it will most certainly fulfill the Author's description of a handbook suitable for identifying sets found at rallies and (dare I say it) mis-identified on Ebay!

Wireless for the Warrior Compendium 1 – Spark to Larkspur is available from Wimborne Publishing online at <http://www.epemag3.com/> priced £23.50 plus £1.25 P&P.

Colin Guy, G4DDI

Helplines – Queries

83/1 Handbook for Dipole No. 1 (WS17)

Has anyone got any details beyond those shown in the user handbook for the dipole aerial No 1 employed on the WS17, or even an example from which measurements could be taken. 01375 640618 Pete.shepherd4@btinternet.com

Pete Shepherd, G7DXV

Letters

Mike Buckley, M1CCF

Some time ago, Members were invited to submit ideas for an AGM location. At the time I informally suggested that we should rotate bi-annually between Kineton/Warwick and the Bletchley Park Museum.

I would like to formally propose this as a way forward. In alternate years we hold our AGM at Bletchley Park, either as a special event weekend or in conjunction with an existing Bletchley Park Event. In this eventuality the next would be held here in 2011.

For 2010, I suggest we return to former venues in Warwickshire which have proved so successful. My personal preference is for a Saturday, but this could also rotate for the mutual benefit of those who would prefer Sunday.

These locations are quite central, easily reached (well Kineton does have its public transport problems on Sundays, but this is easily overcome by offering a ferry service for those who need it), warm, comfortable, and affordable.

Now I realise that there are other preferences by those who live in Cornwall, Northumberland, and may be even Wales and Scotland - not forgetting France, Canada, USA, or Australia, to mention but four more. However, let us be realistic, something around the middle of England is easier for a majority! (Yes, I know what the present Constitution says).

While talking of AGMs, lets also consider EGMs - either seems appropriate to me, but why do we need to have one at all, unless it is a good excuse for a swapmeet, which went so well last time?

We seem to need an EGM to change the Constitution - could this not be immediately before the next AGM, saving on costs all round? Failing this what about a somewhat nominal event at a Rally, or even a military vehicle show? By nominal I mean that all members should be encouraged to vote by post or email (preferred), with just a few who want to meet at the preferred venue, to make it legal?

From Mike Hahn, G4JRB

I have been a member of VMARS for a couple of years now and I must say that the Society does a excellent job, in the News Sheet and Signal, of covering everything to do with military, amateur, and sometimes marine equipment. But there is one area of vintage communications equipment which I think has been overlooked and that is CB radios (which I think has only been mentioned once before). While I am not talking about all those illegal AM CB radio's that found their way into this country back in the late 1970s, I am a bit more interested in the earlier radio's from the 1950s and 60s, which I think do now come into the vintage category.

While surfing the internet, I have come across some American CB radio websites with pictures of old valve and early transistor CB radios, and I must admit that some of them are really nice looking pieces of equipment which I am sure with not much trouble could be used by amateurs on 10 m. I just wonder if some of these radios did make their way over to this side of the Atlantic. Prior to the import ban on CB radios into this country in the late 1960s, CB radios where legally on sale (but not to use of course) in this country.

Looking through some old Short Wave Magazines from 1967, I noticed that Lowe's of Matlock were advertising the Sommekamp TS600G mobile for £40, and the TS912 walkie-talkie for £10-10-0, both being described as being for 10 m operation, but they were, in fact, CB radios. I also seem to remember CB walkie-talkies being advertised for sale in national news papers in the mid 60s, and asking my dad if he would buy me a pair, to which he's answer was no!

Lastly I wonder if some of the American forces who were stationed over here back then brought their CB radios with them?

I must admit I have only seen vintage CB radios in the flesh so to speak on 3 occasions. Once back in the 1970s when I was on holiday in Sweden, when I saw an old 23 channel valve base station in the window of a second hand shop in Stockholm. The other times were over here more recently at radio rallies and boat jumbles (good place too look for old marine HF equipment) where I have seen pairs of walkie-talkies in their original boxes for sale. Both the radios and boxes looked very 1960s in design. But I did not buy any of these items as I knew that if a radio could transmit on 27MHz AM, and it did not have a type approval stamp on it, as well as being illegal to use it was illegal to be in possession of that equipment. At least that is what the law used to be. I just wonder if it has been changed as I have seen radio dealers in this country selling 80 Channel FM CB radios which, with a few presses of buttons, can also transmit on AM and these radio's do not have type approval stamps on them.

Anyway I wonder what the other Members of the Society think about this subject - should there be some articles on vintage CB radio, or should we just stick to military amateur and marine equipment?

[A good point Mike – any takers? - Colin G4DDI]

From Gerald Greatrix, G7HNM

I would like to thank Colin for his words in the last N/S and for visiting me in Pilgrim hospital. Also, can I say a big thank-you to all of you who rang and emailed me to see how I was. I am waiting to go back to Pilgrim Hospital (Boston) for a NM Cardiac Exercise Stress MIBI/TF. As to my well-

being, I'm not too bad and am following doctor's orders and, of course, the Station Manager's orders too.

Committee notices

Committee Meeting

A Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 10th February 2010 by telephone conference. The following attended the meeting: Stuart McKinnon (Chairman), John Keeley (Honorary Secretary), Brian Thomas (Honorary Treasurer), Broniek Wedzicha (Membership Secretary), Mike Bayliff (Committee Member). An apology was received from Peter Chadwick (Committee Member) who was out of the Country on business.

Principal decisions taken and business discussed was as follows:

1. *Membership Renewals:* Broniek Wedzicha reported that 280-290 renewals had been received to date and more renewals are expected. The Membership Database was in the process of being updated and it was proposed to include the Membership list with the February News Sheet. The Committee were also pleased to note the number of new membership applications that had been received.

2. *Email Reflectors:* Broniek Wedzicha reported that the VMARS Members Yahoo Group was running well with no problems. Stuart McKinnon reported that he had been in contact with Yahoo regarding the unofficial VMARS reflectors that still exist. Yahoo are able to take action where brand or copyright names are used for reflectors without authorisation, but would require confirmation that the Society held the copyright on, or was the sole owner of "VMARS" as a name. The Committee noted that the proposed revised Constitution included a clause prohibiting the use of the name "VMARS" by Members of the Society without prior authorisation of the Committee. When the revised Constitution is adopted any unofficial "VMARS" reflector operated by a Member, without authorisation by the Committee, would constitute a breach of the Constitution.

3. *AGM 2010 Location:* A bid had been received from Colin Guy to host the AGM at Thorpe Camp, and there was a possibility that the Society would be offered the use of the Ballroom in the Mansion at Bletchley Park as part of our participation in the "Armed Forces Weekend" event to be held 3rd - 4th July.

There were no objections in principle to holding the AGM at Thorpe Camp but the venue is not readily accessible from the motorway network, and this might present a difficulty for Members having to travel some distance. The meeting room at Bletchley Park was likely to be only available for a limited time and this might cause problems if matters were to arise that took the AGM beyond the formality of receiving reports and election of the Committee. There was also the possibility of an EGM to adopt the revised Constitution being called to take place immediately before the AGM.

After considerable discussion, it was felt that the best course of action was to hold the AGM at Bletchley Park subject to confirmation with the "Armed Forces Weekend" event organisers. Every effort would be made to call the EGM to adopt the revised Constitution in mid-April at Kineton, the meeting to be followed by a swapmeet, and possibly an auction.

4. *Society Finances:* Brian Thomas reported that the current account balance stood at around £11.5k. The accounts were in the process of being prepared for examination and the actual examination process was expected to start in March.

Brian also reported that, due to the general tightening up of banking regulations, NatWest now required more details of authorised signatories, and a new mandate form had been circulated among those concerned.

5. *Revised Constitution:* Peter Chadwick had circulated a report prior to the telephone conference. The final draft of the new Constitution had been published with the January NS for comment from the Membership. The consultation period would close at the end of February. A number of comments had already been received and these will be considered along with any others that are submitted by the review team, after the consultation period has closed. A final document would then be issued for adoption at an EGM.

6. *Blackpool Rally – Norbreck Castle:* Broniek Wedzicha reported that RAFARS proposed to set up a special event station to be manned by members of a local CCF unit. VMARS had been requested to provide appropriate vintage equipment for this station and this was under discussion with local organisers..

7. *Bletchley Park "Armed Forces Weekend" 3rd - 4th July* Broniek Wedzicha and Stuart McKinnon are to meet with the organisers on Thursday 11th February to discuss VMARS participation in detail. It was expected that the Saturday AM Net would be operated from BP, and a display area would again be available to us. The possibility of holding the AGM at BP has already been mentioned in item 3 above, and Broniek raised the further possibility of a VMARS Lecture.

(Please see elsewhere in this NS for more details on what is proposed for the event)

8. *National Vintage Communications Fair:* John Keeley had raised the possibility of a VMARS presence at this event at the previous meeting, and had subsequently circulated details of costs, etc. While it was recognised this was a popular event, with a number of VMARS members attending, the feeling was that, due to the broad nature of the NVCF, it was somewhat "off topic" for VMARS. In consequence, it was decided not to support a VMARS stand at the event.

9. *GB10VMARS QSL Card:* Broniek Wedzicha reported that work was continuing on the card and all that remained to do was add suitable text to the back of the card. Broniek also holds the GB10VMARS station log. An announcement regarding the issue of the card will be made in due course.

10. *Improvements to Members Services:* Broniek Wedzicha reported that suitable pictures have now been located and Signal Issue 14 will have colour front and back covers.

11. *VMARS Banners:* Mike Bayliff raised the matter of how VMARS Banners were issued for use at approved VMARS stands at rallies and shows. As it was sometimes difficult to locate the whereabouts of banners, Mike felt there was a need for some form of co-ordination with possibly a Committee Member taking on the role of Events Co-ordinator. After discussion, the considered view was that, while there were merits in establishing an Events Co-ordinator, the issue from, and return of banners to, a central point would entail significant effort and incur extra carriage costs. It was recognised that the existing system of passing banners on to the next user did on occasions make it difficult to establish the whereabouts of banners. However, on the

whole, the system worked well and kept costs to the Society to a minimum.

It was, therefore, decided to continue with the present system of issuing banners, and not to establish a formal role of Events Co-ordinator.

12. *Violette Sczabo Memorial Event*: A request had been received from Tony Helm seeking approval for an approved VMARS stand at this event, to be held at Wormelow near Hereford. Violette Sczabo was a SOE agent and radio operator in WW2, working in occupied France. Sadly, she was captured and subsequently executed at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. Tony proposes to work into the Saturday Morning AM Net using vintage equipment and present a number of demonstrations of clandestine equipment and contemporary interception techniques. This was seen as an excellent opportunity for VMARS to contribute, and approval was, therefore, given.

A full copy of the meeting minutes may be obtained on request from the Honorary Secretary, John Keeley when they have been formally agreed at the next Committee Meeting scheduled for 22nd May 2010.

Review of the Constitution

Following the publication of a Draft Revised Constitution, enclosed with the previous issue of the VMARS News Sheet (No. 82), comments from the following have been received with thanks:

Gerald Brigham, G3LEO
Gerald Stancey, G3MCK
Richard Stoodley, G3UNW

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

Sending in articles, news items, letters and advertisements for VMARS Publications

Please send copy to Colin Guy, G4DDI, by post or e-mail,
Hawthorn Folly,
Cul – de – Sac, Stickford
Boston PE22 8EY
+44(0)1205 480006 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

The copy deadlines for the next issue of the News Sheet is **15th March**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9th May**, but copy would be appreciated as far in advance as possible.

Applications for Membership

We wish to welcome the following new applicants for VMARS membership:

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr Glyn Burrows, M3ZLA Malpas, Cheshire	Particular interest in HF Clansman military radios, as well as non-Clansman
Mr David Pike, G8KBD Mansfield, Nottinghamshire	Clansman equipment. 19 Sets
Mr Frederick Day, M0RFD Rochester, Kent	All military radio/radar especially Clansman series. I know nothing but am keen to know more
Mr Roy Kavanagh Kilmarnock	Ex Army equipment, especially QRP portable
Mr Peter Bannon Worcester	Interests cover a wide field, military radio and test equipment mainly. Domestic radio 20s - 60s (valve equipment). BVWS Member. Will shortly be doing foundation level ARL, soon on air with PRC320
Mr Alain Betemps Bons, France	Tube amp aficionados - built DIY audio tube amps. Army radios collector, tubes and transistors, specially GRC9, Clansman, TRVM10, etc
Mr Graham Mather Newbury, Berkshire	
Mr Alan Gladding Chelmsford, Essex	
Mr Nick Hamilton, G1DRR Mansfield, Nottinghamshire	Restoration of an FFR Landrover to full comms spec, ham radio and IT topics. Member Exmil Landrover Association, RSARS

[Membership rules require names of applicants for membership to be published, before they are formally accepted as members. This allows existing members to object, if they wish. If you want to object to any of the above, please write to our Hon Sec, John Keeley – Ed.]

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Publication of List of Members

The Committee agreed that a full 'List of Members' should be published along with the February Issue of Signal. Since the list is available as paper copy only, it will be circulated to Members with Signal, which all Members receive by regular mail. Unfortunately it has not been possible to meet this deadline owing to the very large number of queries which still remain on the database (and so an inaccurate list), and technical difficulties in using the current database format to produce copy with the necessary restrictions notified by Members. For this reason, the list for 2010 will be published along with the May Issue of Signal. Any Member requiring contact information for another should write to the Membership Secretary who will provide details subject to any restrictions imposed under the data protection act. Wholesale download of details will not be provided.

Events Diary

The diary is a list of events which are either ones where VMARS is formally represented (**bold**), or those where there is known to be a reasonable chance of finding or seeing vintage electronic items (plain). It is not intended to be a complete list of all available events (which can be found on the internet). Information is checked as far as is practical, but we can't guarantee its accuracy – its always best to check with the contact person if you are travelling a long way to attend.

Date (2007)	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
21 st March	Callington ARS Rally	Callington Community College Launceston Road Callington PL17 7DR	Mike Bayliff M0XGG 01822 834373 or 07967 809299	A	M0XGG
11 th April	Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition	Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre Blackpool	Dave M0OBW 01270 761608 dwilson@btinternet.com www.g1gyc.demon.co.uk/NARSA	A	Many expected
25 th April	Radiophile Spring Exposition	Cowbit Village Hall Barrier Bank, Cowbit Spalding, PE12 6AL	www.sdars.org.uk/radiophile.htm Chas Miller 01785 284696	V/A	
2 nd May	Dambusters Hamfest	Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, Tattershall Thorpe, Nr Coningsby Lincolnshire, LN4 4PE.	Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 tcrm@hotmail.co.uk http://beam.to/tcrm	A	Many expected
9 th May	National Vintage Communications Fair	Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, CV31 1XN	www.nvcf.org.uk	V	Many expected
6 th June	Spalding & DARS Annual Rally	The Sir John Glead Technology School, Halmer Gardens, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 2EF	John, G4NBR, 07946 302815, rally-secretary@sdars.org.uk http://www.sdars.org.uk	A	
25 th July	Horncastle Summer Rally	Horncastle Youth Centre	Tony Nightingale G3ZPU 01507 527835 g3zpu@yahoo.co.uk	A	Many expected

Advertisements

Advertisements are welcome from all members, and also non-members and traders. The latter are indicated by "(NM)" or "(T)" after their contact details.

FOR SALE: Two Bowman batteries, never been used, demo only, for portable VHF set. £60

David Waters 07542 947501

FOR SALE: R107 receiver: the previous owner said it was working but not tried by me. The clock on the front panel is missing. Best offer.

David Smith (NM) 01981 240356 Midway between Hereford & Abergavenny.

FOR SALE: HRO Reception Set R-106 (1945), along with coil sets 1 - 9, speaker, spare valves, power supply and some instructions. This has been donated to raise money for charity, so best offer secures. Located in Croydon, Surrey.

Please contact Debbie Vincent on 07779 442395 email deb@bright-eyes.info in the first instance.

FOR SALE: AR88LF (RAF receiver type 15/6C). In excellent condition electrically and cosmetically. Used often. Very original, except chromed handles added to front of set. These look elegant and certainly help when moving the set

around! Includes matching RAF loudspeaker unit type ZU360 (ref 10U/17229). Copy of parts of RCA workshop manual included. £75

B40C Receiver, ex Royal Navy. A very fine example, very tidy and totally original. Works very well indeed. What I particularly like about this set is that its AGC is so good that one can listen (in CW mode) to a net of several SSB stations of various strengths without having to adjust the RF gain. Also has nice selection of IF bandwidths. Complete with mains lead, RF connectors and (rather rare) metal cover plate that fits over front of set during removals to protect same. Also included is complete copy of RN workshop manual, BR1617. £65

RAF Receiver type 1475. Rare HF receiver offered in excellent original condition, complete with power supply Type 360, and guard unit (see Signal 11). Works well. £95

Receiver WS52, Canadian, 1944. Receiver is housed in non-original but elegant wooden case, painted olive green. Complete with PSU type ZE12 (and interconnecting cable), works well from AC mains or from 12 V DC. Very nice condition and performance-wise, my favourite of the wartime

Army receivers (good filters, good AGC). Includes operating pamphlet and circuit diagram. £75

PYE SSB125T HF SSB radiotelephone, complete with classic Pye "tulip" microphone and PSU that runs from 24 V DC (presumed designed for vehicle use). Operates on four crystal-controlled channels. Untested but very tidy. Would make the basis of an interesting high-power transceiver using "Multi-rock" PIC technology (see Signal 13). £55

In all cases, buyer collects!

Simon Dabbs, G4GFN (Southampton) 023 8039 4912
simon.dabbs@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SWAP: R-105M Russian VHF manpack with headphones, microphone and whip aerial, but frequency indicator rubber cover and front panel meter missing. In good condition but untested. Would swap for anything HF. CMX46159 (TCS12) RX aerial connector damaged, some corrosion on front panel. Untested but looks complete inside and COL-52245 (TCS10) TX. Plate tuning knob missing, some corrosion on front panel. Untested but looks complete inside. Would swap the pair for a WS62 set.

Wood case for the training set WT Mk3. In fair condition but there is a crack along the top lid. Would swap for anything.

Mike Hahn G4JRB 01708 520564 weekends and evenings only. Collect only, no car this end.

WANTED: Hand/headset, gooseneck and bag for Racal TRA965. Headset for A41.

(Advertisement repeated from last month as David's phone number was incorrectly published – our apologies for that!)

David Waters 07542 947501

WANTED: To complete my 52 Set - the tuning control drive mechanism - the part with the two knobs for slow/fast tuning at the bottom of the dial. Alternatively, a scrap 52 chassis.

Ken Brooks G3XSJ 01453 845013

WANTED: The three pin female power plug (no. 20) for a SEM35.

Mike Hahn G4JRB 01708 520564 weekends and evenings only.



Replica Y-Station set up at Bletchley Park