



The VMARS News Sheet

A publication of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society

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October 2011

www.vmars.org.uk

M0VMWV

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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Those who watched "Code-Breakers" on BBC TV on 25th November will recognise two of the ladies as actresses; filming took place around the Bletchley Park Event in September. Our Chairman somehow got in on the 'act' in the dressing room!
More pictures inside (Photo M0WSN).

VMARS AUCTION

Sunday 27th November 2011

10.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m.

Kineton Village Hall

Mill Street, Kineton CV35 0LB

The second batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC will be auctioned on Sunday 27th November. Doors will open for viewing at 10.00 a.m.

Catalogue and further information are enclosed with this Issue of the News Sheet

VMARS Auction*Sunday 27th November 2011*

Enclosed with this News Sheet is the catalogue of the first 100 lots for the auction of the second batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC. As was the case last time, there will also be a substantial amount of equipment that is not listed, and this will be auctioned as usual. Some items will carry reserves which will be at the discretion of the auctioneer.

Those attending the auction are advised that the Hall will be open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. and the auction will begin at 10.30 a.m.

At the back of the catalogue is a photograph to acknowledge the hard work that is being done by the auction team, which requires not only the personal time of those involved, but much lifting of heavy equipment, and expert advice. We are pleased that Jan Coggins also took a keen interest in the work.

This auction will take place at Kineton in the Village Hall, which is well known to Members. As usual, Anne M3TBI will be providing her excellent catering and informs us that the menu will be as follows:

- Rolls – cheese, ham, tuna mayo on granary, wholemeal or white bread
- Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings – butter, cheese, cheese and beans, tuna mayo or Chilli
- Sausage rolls/small pork pies
- Variety of cakes and biscuits
- Crisps
- Hot and cold drinks

We look forward to meeting the 'regulars' and new Members at Kineton on 27th November.

BronekWedzicha MODAF**Hack Green Sale***9th October 2011*

Anne and I attended the Secret Nuclear Bunker sale at Hack Green on the 9th October. You knew where you were with the stewards' impeccable timing and the gates were duly swung open at 09.59; no dramas, all went in an orderly queue.

I must say that there was a rare moment for the Chairman; he actually got out his wallet and bought a 14/28 V WidneyAish PSU at a very good knock down price of £30 including brand new cable, and all that within 3 minutes of arriving!

*October 2011*

There were several outdoor stalls, mostly containing ex-WD radio and associated equipment. There was also the battery man and his colleague who does the fibreglass fishing pole antennas.

Inside the main hangar we were treated to at least a dozen or more stalls, containing once again ex-mil radio equipment and sets, handbooks and some very expensive Motorola ex-police mobile rigs at a remarkable knock down price. The Stoke-on-Trent Radio Society had a load of equipment being sold for a silent key, and in amongst it some nice ex-mil bits also.



The Curators wife and daughter had a table in the corner selling scones, cakes, biscuits, pasties, and teas and coffees, so we were spoilt all round for the service.

We must have bumped into and chatted to a dozen or so VMARS Members amongst others from the wider amateur community.

The Museum was, as usual, open for business, but I was somewhat amused at the half a dozen overseas visitors that I bumped into, whose language was predominately Eastern Block, the first one exclaiming to me, I am from The USSR! Seriously, these were language students on a day out.

An excellent day out with plenty to do and see.

Stuart McKinnon GOTBI**Bletchley Park Photo Gallery**

The following photographs were sent in by Ron Swinburne, MOWSN.





The BBC used the occasion of the Bletchley Park Event, and the days before and after, to film at least some of the Code Breakers feature which was first televised on 25th November. One of the personalities was 'Winston' see top left in Ron Swinburne's K9 truck, and bottom left is the TV crew at work. Jonathan Wymer is pictured top right with Stuart McKinnon working the Saturday morning Net, bottom right.

The following photographs were contributed by Robin Maddison G0GNE





**Gatwick Radio/Military Weekend
9-11th September 2011**

Regular attendees started arriving on the Friday for this the sixth annual Gatwick Radio and Military Vehicle Weekend at Les Thacker's QTH a few miles from London's Gatwick International Airport.

One of the paddocks is given over exclusively for the event so there is plenty of space for everybody to experiment with their antennas or should that be antennae (Latin scholars please advise).



FOB (Forward Operating Base) Jackson

After the glorious Indian summer of the previous week, weather was a little mixed but nothing to put off our dedicated radio enthusiasts.

Andy and Paul Jackson, with their impressive Army Champs and Larkspur and Clansman equipment, had their comprehensive antenna array operational in time for the regular Friday evening VMARS LSB Net. Mike Buckley, with his Champ and Land Rover, also arrived on the Friday ready

for the VMARS Saturday morning AM Net. Saturday also saw the arrival of VMARS Members Ian Underwood, Robin Maddison, Charlie Watkins and Jonathan Wymer. Jonathan came with his recently acquired ex-military Land Rover Defender complete with WS19 HP. Ian and Robin were both using Clansman 320's into various antenna configurations. Saturday also saw many day visitors from the Crawley, Dorking and Horsham Radio Clubs.



Andy G8JAC during the Saturday AM Net courtesy of Larkspur

We even managed to convert one visitor to the cause of Clansman equipment – he confirmed to Les the week following the event that he had acquired a working Clansman 320– a new VMARS Member perhaps?

The regular Saturday evening barbeque was a little down on numbers on last year, a light drizzle at 1830 hours not helping, but a large military mess tent put up as a contingency at least meant everybody stayed dry.



Some of the WWII and post-war vehicles on display

Sunday again witnessed some more day visitors and, at last, decent weather.

For those Members who have a particular interest in military equipment, both radio and vehicles – this year we had WWII and post-war armour and troop transport, post-war FFR vehicles and even a WWII 6 pounder anti-tank gun on display – Les invites Members and friends to next year's event, date to be announced in the VMARS News Sheet.

Finally, Les would like to thank all those who so generously contributed to his former regiments' charity, The Rifles Casualty Fund.

Les Thacker 2E0IBN

USB Net Wednesday 3rd August 2011

William G8CMK wrote thus: very good net on Wednesday evening, pity the nights are drawing in because this is the first opportunity we have had for some time to enjoy our hobby. This is what we have to do; we have to get out to 'get out'. The wind does blow up there, so it works best on fine days because it is more fun sitting in the open than in a tent.



This aerial is centre fed, longer than a G5RV by a foot or so, but it seemed a shame to trim the length of wire as I had to use an AMU anyway. The little SGC 211 did not tune the thing, much to my surprise, so it was the trusty KW107 'Supermatch' that did the job. Most people were 'five and nine'; the others were lost in the noise. It was good to work '320 to '320 with Pete Shepherd G7DXV. The capability of that little rig always gives me a warm glow of pride. You were a massive signal into Hastings. I might even have heard you at home, had I been there.



And, Stuart McKinnon G0TBI writes about the same occasion as follows: Anne and I were recently at the /A location in Hornsea, East Yorkshire.

I have, for some time, been wanting to string up the dipole and press into service a FT 1000 MP that has been languishing in its box for a year at that location.

Well, to cut a long story short, the Chairman could not get his act together but had the bright idea, after a prompt from the Station Manager M3TBI Anne, to pay a visit to the Hornsea Amateur Radio Club HARC, which is located some 400 m away from the /A location.

We were really lucky because, on Wednesday evening, we had a storm that had somewhat subsided by 7ish. There had been plenty of thunder/lightning earlier, but all settled down when we arrived at the Club location. When I say we were lucky, we were greeted by old friends including Duncan Heathershaw G3TLI, and Anthony Pearce G0AZQ, who informed us we were seeing a mirage, as they should have been out on a foxhunt but, due the wet stuff, it had been cancelled.



I quickly made my request: "could I please borrow your shack for half an hour or so". "What do you want to do?" they asked. I informed them of our USB Net that takes place every Wednesday. "No problems" they said, and then there was a scurry of activity in locating and setting up an HF radio, in this case a nice TS 850S with built in ATU; another stroke of luck as the Station ATU was not back from a field contest event.



I managed to get on the air by 20.06hrs to hear some great signals. The list is as follows:

- William G8CMK/P (RT-320) 5/9 + 10dB
- John G6RAV (Collins 618T) 4/4 All words copyable!
- Peter G7DXV (Trio TS 820V) 5/9 + 20dB
- Peter G7DXV (RT-320) 5/9 !
- Keith G7HWK (RT-320) 5/6
- John 2E0KNJ (RT-321) 5/9 + 10dB
- IanG0IAN
- RonGX1MAR (M0WSN)

JohnG4SRE (RT-320) 5/7
 TrevorPA3BOH (Rockwell Collins HS121) 5/9 (Nice Signal from this early Nimrod HF radio!)

So, all in all, some superb signals heard and given out from an alternative location. I had, of course, known for some time that HARC had held an interest in contest field work, and one of their members, who has land, makes it available for field days and such other on-air events. The following day, Anne and I went to investigate the /P area, only to meet up with Richard G4YTV (you might know that Richard was/is associated with Yorkshire Television!).

Well, to say the /P location is a contest location is an understatement, as the antenna farm is quite impressive. Upon arrival, Richard was already chatting to a station in Luton on 40 m, utilising a fantastic loop antenna. There were several antennas for different bands so, as you might expect, they are no amateurs to this contest work.

As some of you heard me mention on that Wednesday Net, the HARC put on a lovely little rally at the Floral Hall located on the sea front in Hornsea, just off Marine Drive and, speaking from experience, it is a good social event with the added bonus of a Sunday lunch option within the same building, and good value as well. I know many VMARS Members have attended in the past, and I look forward to seeing some of you there on Sunday 16th October; perhaps a day out for the family, or car share with a VMARS colleague or two?

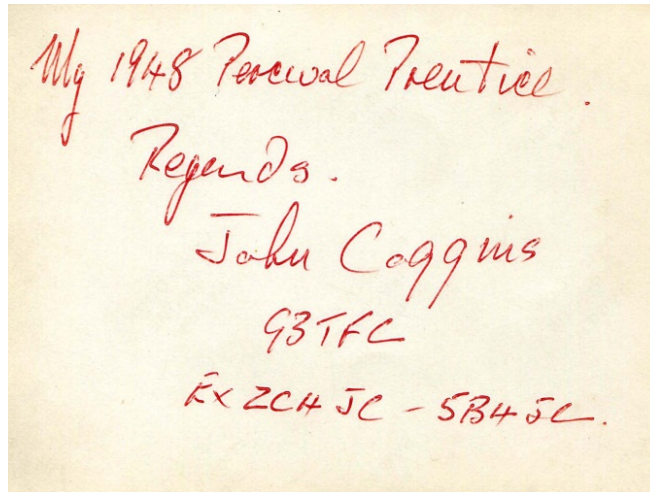
Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
12 th Nov	M0YMK	M0TCM	M0DAF
19 th Nov	M0TCM	M0DAF	G0TBI
26 th Nov	M0DAF	G0TBI	G4GEN
3 rd Dec	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
10 th Dec	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
17 th Dec	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN
24 th Dec	GW8TBG	G8AQN	M0YMK

Letters

From Louis Meulstee PA0PCR

It came as a shock when I heard of the passing of John Coggins G3TFC, now already some time ago. We knew each other from about 1977 via mail correspondence and I met him first on my way to Ireland during the 1979 summer holidays. Baginton was not much of a detour as our route went from Harwich to Holyhead. In the following years I regularly visited John who was always most hospitable. The reason for writing is that, after reading Jan's letter and accompanying photo in the VMARS News Sheet, I remembered having a colour photo of his Percival Prentice which he gave to me in about 1980. I vaguely remember that John told me that this photo was taken in the mid-1970's and the person standing on the ground was his father.



I found it amusing to see that the BC-223, which was auctioned recently, came originally from me...

**From Tony Helm G4BCX
 Harrowbeer, a postscript.**

I have received the following message, after having sent the Harrowbeer organisers a copy of my article in the last News Sheet.

No doubt the weather on the Saturday sent the locals and holiday-makers scurrying down to Plymouth, the biggest shopping centre west of Exeter (and bigger), but the fine weather on the Sunday made the whole exercise worthwhile. I found the number of estimated visitors interesting. It goes to show how many people can be attracted to something good from, in many cases, so far away.

Message reads: *Very interesting article. Glad you enjoyed the weekend despite the rain on Friday. But the lovely weather on Sunday, I am sure, more than made up for it. The official estimate is 2,000 to 3,000 general public on the Saturday and a staggering 8,500 to 10,000 on the Sunday. Thank you all for coming along and helping to make it such a success*

Regards

Michael
 Michael Hayes
 Chairman 70th Anniversary Planning Group

I personally would like to give special thanks to Robert and Carol Hodges (Robert is a VMARS Member), for helping to make it such a memorable occasion.

Committee notices

Report & Proposal by VMARS to the RSGB Radio Spectrum Forum 5th November 2011

VMARS has two primary spectrum aims:-AM recognition and 5MHz expansion.

AM Recognition

VMARS continues to seek full recognition of the use of AM on the HF bands. To quote Don Beattie, RSGB Acting General Manager, writing in the October RSGB Newsletter.

“Amateur radio is often described as a broad church. From those who enjoy microwave experimentation to those who rag-chew; from those who compete in contests to those who exploit digital modes; from those who work with amateur television to those whose joy is QRP; they all have equal rights to the amateur spectrum, and we must welcome them to our ranks.”

AM is part of that ‘broad church’ and it is the aim of VMARS to promote AM from being a footnote to a fully accepted voice mode in those bands where voice communication is allowed. AM is no longer solely the province of vintage radio or military radio enthusiasts. Amateur stations, including Society Members, using modern and experimental technology such as pulse width modulation can now be heard on 80m producing high quality transmissions. Our Members continue to report abuse and deliberate jamming from uninformed amateur stations, particularly from mainland Europe, where AM is less popular than it is in the UK. Reminding delegates at IARU regional level conferences that AM is a valued and increasingly popular transmission mode is, in our view, essential if we are to continue to enjoy those equal rights expounded by Don Beattie.

Current band plans are confusing. The IARU Region 1 Band Plan refers to HF maximum bandwidths of “2.7kHz all modes”. Although AM is an allowable mode, no references to it are included. AM operates with bandwidths of around 6 kHz. For the uninformed, using AM appears to contravene the Band Plan and results in some operators behaving badly toward AM stations. We urge the RSGB to make it abundantly clear at both UK and international levels that AM is a fully permitted mode, even though the Band Plan appears to completely contradict this.

AM Recognition - Proposed amendment to RSGB Band Plan

In support of our Members aims for a wider acceptance of the use of AM, VMARS propose that a note to the effect that AM may be used, subject to the usual operating courtesies, in the 2.7 kHz segment allocated for voice modes and added to the guidance notes provided for each band where voice modes are allowed. We would also very much like to see this change at IARU Region 1 level. This change can be made at no cost and will serve to avoid present confusion.

5MHz Expansion

VMARS fully supports the RSGB negotiations with OFCOM for agreement to extend the existing spot frequency allocations in the 60m band to a fixed allocation of bandwidth for general Amateur use. We would like to add a proposal that 60 m ‘notching’ of PLT devices is included in any discussions. Our understanding is that this is not a

current requirement of manufacturers, although ‘notching’ is undertaken on all other amateur bands below 30MHz .

Our Members would like to be assured that any negotiations between the RSGB, OFCOM and the MoD will include the provision of AM as an allowable transmission mode in any revised 60 m allocations. Also, we would appreciate an update of how discussions between all UK parties on this subject are progressing and whether there are any discussions scheduled to take place at international level.

Amateur band extensions

The Society has received an e-mail from VMARS Member Peter Chadwick, in which he has advised of possible avenues for the extension of existing amateur bands. These include ideas for extensions to 30, 17 and 12 m bands, which we understand have been communicated to the Spectrum Manager. Of particular interest to many VMARS Members are his suggestions for the extension of 80 m from 3.8 to 3.9MHz, which the Society would wish to be included in any future discussions between the RSGB and OFCOM.

Peter has extensive knowledge and experience of the inner workings of international spectrum agreements and the regulatory frameworks which have been gained both in a professional capacity at CEPT and as a representative of IARU at ITU meetings. His ideas for the expansion of amateur radio spectrum use are acknowledged and wholly supported by VMARS.

PLT (See also 5MHz expansion - above)

Our Members are reporting increasing problems with local radio interference from a wide range of devices polluting the HF spectrum. In some locations, the interference is so bad that operation on HF bands has had to be abandoned. Society Members are encouraged to contact OFCOM in such circumstances but many are reluctant to do so for fear of upsetting neighbours. Those who have requested OFCOM intervention have generally reported positive results, although there have been one or two instances where the source of interference has been identified but OFCOM have declined to take any action. One Member was advised that his 1950’s vintage receiver was ‘too sensitive’. However, a positive outcome was eventually achieved.

The RSGB has VMARS total support in maintaining efforts to ensure that legal obligations of OFCOM to minimise spectrum pollution are fully adhered to and manufacturers are held fully responsible for ensuring that their products emissions are within maximum permitted levels.

Venue for VMARS AGM 2012 and beyond

The Committee is keen for the AGM to be both an effective business meeting and offer the opportunity for a social occasion with added interest provided by the venue. It had been decided that the 2012 AGM will again take place at Bletchley Park, to coincide with a major event at the venue, and such a possibility has already been mooted with the organisers. Once the Bletchley Park diary is settled, we can then announce the date of the 2012 AGM.

Looking ahead to 2013 and beyond, we would like to give Members the opportunity to suggest interesting venues for us to consider. A possibility we may explore is to hold the AGM at Baginton to combine with a visit to the Airfield, but other venues such as The Yorkshire Air Museum (Elvington), Hack Green, Cosford, Bovington, Blandford, Neatishead (Radar Museum) and Thorpe Camp, are

examples of places of interest where we could combine the AGM with an interesting day out. In order to canvass Members' opinions, we would very much appreciate if you could return the tear-off slip on page 9 of this News Sheet to the VMARS Chairman by 1st December 2011, with your suggestions.

Thank you.

Publications matters

Committee receives comments from Members regarding what should and should not appear in the Letters pages of this News Sheet and on the Reflector. As a Committee, we have reviewed our policy as follows:

In general, two types of correspondence are received as 'Letters to the Editor'. General interest contributions, whether technical or otherwise of relevance to the hobby, or personal news, are welcome as such and will generally be published, sometimes in edited form. The other type of offering is what can best be described as the 'open letter' to the Committee. This type of correspondence should rightfully be addressed to the Committee for its attention, and as with all such correspondence, it will be considered by the Committee. The correspondent will receive a Committee reply in due course. Such correspondence will not be published in the News Sheet. The Committee is mindful of the fact that it does not wish to suppress unfavourable comment about Society management out of hand but such comments should always be addressed to the Committee in the first instance.

The VMARS Reflector is intended primarily for the exchange of technical information and, indeed, some very interesting topics have been debated and explained via that medium. Only half of our Members are subscribers to the Reflector which is why we do not regard it as an 'official' method for communicating Society issues. On occasions, subscribers to the Reflector have posted remarks and canvassed opinions/actions on Society matters. In general, there is only a handful of Members who have engaged in such debates and, with the limited involvement of the Society as a whole, cannot be considered to be representative of Society opinion. For this reason, and for the avoidance of doubt, such posts will no longer be allowed on the Reflector, the use of which should be restricted to technical content.

VMARS and RSGB

VMARS is affiliated to RSGB, although not all VMARS Members are Members of RSGB. We recognise the importance of RSGB as the National body to represent the

Events Diary

The diary is a list of events which are either ones where VMARS is formally represented, or those where there is known to be a reasonable chance of finding or seeing vintage electronic items (plain). It is not intended to 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 (2012)	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
29 th January	Horncastle Winter Rally	Horncastle Youth Centre Lincolnshire LN9 6DZ	Tony G3ZPU 01507 527835 G3ZPU@yahoo.co.uk	A	
5 th February	27 th Canvey Radio and Electronics Rally	The Paddocks Long Road, Canvey Island	Dave G4UVJ 01268 697978 (eve) www.southessex-ars.co.uk	A	Many

interests of UK radio amateurs, and so support the need for RSGB to take immediate radical action in order to secure financial stability, and to establish a management structure which will ensure that RSGB can function thereafter. RSGB Members have an opportunity to vote on published proposals and attend an EGM specially convened to address RSGB's immediate needs. We urge VMARS Members to use their vote in the manner they believe to be appropriate to securing the future of the RSGB.

Applications for Membership

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

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr M Lawton GW4IQP Newtown, Powys	Vintage marine equipment. Mechanical telegraphy.

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

Please send copy to Colin Guy, G4DDI, by post or e-mail,

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Clinton Park,
Tattershall, Lincs. LN4 4QU
Tel 01526 344715 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

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

Date (2012)	Event	Location	Contact	Type A=Amateur, M= Mil. V=Vintage (non radio)	VMARS Attending
26 th February	Swansea ARS Rally	Court Herbert Sports Centre Neath Abbey Neath SA10 7BE	Roger GW4HSH 01792 404422 www.radioclubs.net/swanseaars	A	Many
25 th March	Hack Green Spring Rally	Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Nantwich, Cheshire	Rod 01270623353 coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk www.hackgreen.co.uk	V/M/A	G4PMY
15 th April	Blackpool Rally	Norbreck Castle Exhibition Centre Blackpool	Dave M0OBW 01270 761608 dwilson@btinternet.com www.g1gyc.demon.co.uk/narsa	A	M0DAF & others

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.

FREE: I have two WS62 sets in reasonable condition (but they have not been switched on for a long time!) and wish to donate them to a good home. They come with a bag of odds & ends (headphones, leads etc).

If you know of anyone who needs them please let me know - I am located in Halesowen, west of Birmingham.

Peter G1FET (NM) 0121 550 6178
peter@taylor-house.org.uk

EXCHANGE: Eddystone semi-automatic Morse key Cat. No. 689, black crackle bug key (a few scratches but untouched), like new inside c/w paperwork. Value approximately £90.

Looking for Command sets, USA WW2 airborne, B17 etc.

Peter G4VUN 01677 460302 18:00 – 20:00 only please.

WANTED: Looking for transmitter tuning units TU. (Signals Corp. US Army). Army mark, pref LF ranges, these units were often converted into ATUs; no problem as long as the black crackle finish is OK, also loudspeaker in black crackle cabinet; no problem if speaker u/s, it is the cabinet I want. Good price plus pp offered.

Peter G4VUN 01677 460302 18:00 – 20:00 only please.



Please complete and return this slip by 1st December 2011 to
 VMARS Chairman
 145 Enville Road
 Kinver
 Near Stourbridge
 West Midlands DY7 6BN

My ideas for venues for AGMs 2013 and beyond are:

.....

.....

.....

Name (please print)

WANTED: I am a new Member and have just purchased a RCA AR88LF to restore and to use as my DX receiver. I last used these sets while in the Royal Signals 62 years ago so, like this one, I'm a bit rusty on their maintenance and operation. What I need most, apart from the following bits, is knowledge. So any advice/tips from any Members who have done what I am attempting to do would be greatly appreciated.

At the moment I'm looking for:

- Two Chrome bars from the front panel
- The RCA badge from the centre
- A signal strength meter or the RCA AR88LF panel for the right hand window.
- Three bulb holders.

(Condition not that important.)

Denis Holland 01462 450568
d.g.holland@ntlworld.com

WANTED: UM0, UM1 or similar modulation transformer.

Les Ward G4EPL 0115 96 33080,
lesepl5800@yahoo.com

More photographs from Bletchley Park, taken by Robin MaddisonG0GNE



A comprehensive set up inside Ron Swinburne's K9 truck.



Pete Shepherd G7DXV and JohnKeeley G6RAV on the VMARS Stand