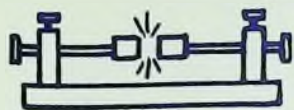
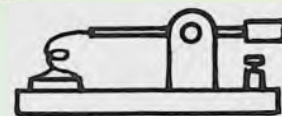


# Spark-Gap Times



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**The Old Old Timers Club**



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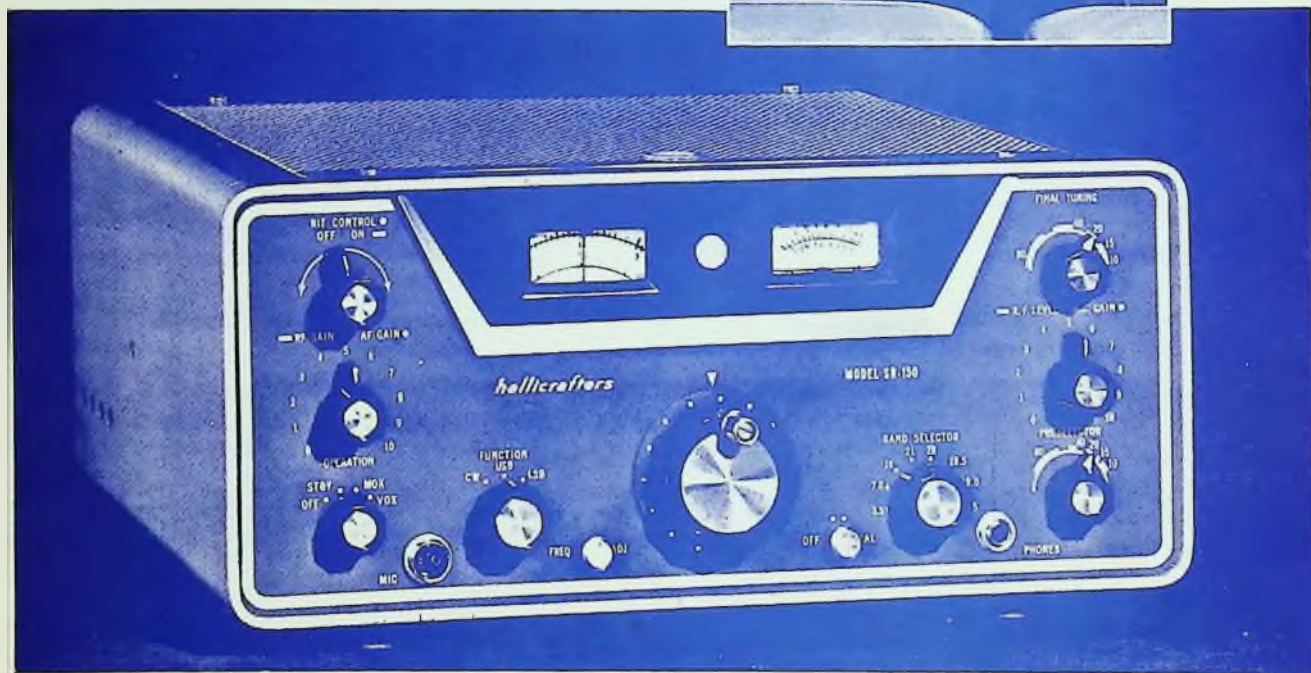


THE GEORGE STERLING'S, W1AE  
AT THEIR SUMMER HOME ON PEAKS ISLAND  
PORTLAND, MAINE

(See page one)

# All this performance for only \$650<sup>00</sup>!

Full amateur band coverage, 80 through 10 meters • Hallicrafters exclusive new R.I.T. (Receiver Incremental Tuning) for  $\pm 2$  kc. adjustment of receiver frequency independent of transmitter, and AALC (Amplified Automatic Level Control) • Receiver AF gain and RF gain controls • SSB operation, VOX or PTT . . . CW operation, manual or break-in • 1650 kc. crystal filter . . .



## SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency coverage: Eight-band capability — full coverage provided for 80, 40, 20, 15 meters; 10M crystals furnished for operation on 28.5 — 29.0 Mc. Other crystals may be added for full 10 meter coverage without adjustment. Available for operation on specified non-amateur frequencies by special order.

Front panel controls: Tuning; Band Selector; Final Tuning; RF Level; Mic. Gain; Pre-Selector; R.I.T.; Rec. RF Gain; AF Gain; Operation (Off/Standby/MOX/VOX.); Function (CW/USB/LSB); Cal.

General: Dial cal., 5 kc.; 100 kc. crystal cal.; VFO tunes 500 kc.; 18 tubes plus volt. reg., 10 diodes, one varicap. Rugged, lightweight aluminum construction (only 17½ lb.); size—6½" x 15" x 13".

Transmitter Section: (2) 12DQ6B output tubes.

Fixed, 50-ohm Pi network. Power input—150W P.E.P. SSB; 125W CW. Carrier and unwanted side-band suppression 50 db.; distortion prod., 30 db. Audio: 400-2800 c.p.s. @ 3 db.

Receiver Section: Sensitivity less than 1  $\mu$ v for 20 db. signal-to-noise ratio. Audio output 2W; overall gain, 1  $\mu$ v for ½ W output. 6.0 — 6.5 1st I.F. (tunes with VFO). 1650 kc. 2nd I.F.

Accessories: P-150AC, AC power supply, \$99.50. P-150DC, DC power supply, \$109.50. MR-150 mounting rack, \$39.95.



New

SR-150

Fixed/Mobile  
Transceiver

hallicrafters

Overseas sales: Export Division, Hallicrafters • Canada: Gould Sales Co., Montreal, P.Q.

5th and Kostner Aves., Chicago 24, Ill.

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## OUR COVER PICTURE

YOCB-11 WAS BROWSING THROUGH THE OOTC FILES WHEN HE CAME UPON A COPY OF "NOR'  
BY EAST", SUMMER 1963, WITH THE COVER PICTURE APPEARING ON IT. DID YOU EVER  
SEE A PRETTIER PICTURE? GEORGE HAS HAD AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER WITH THE F.C.C.  
AND AS AUTHOR OF AN ELECTRONICS MANUAL. (WE THINK MISS MARGARET REALLY PUTS  
THE FROSTING ON THE CAKE.) WE ARE INDEBTED TO BEATRICE CHAPMAN, EDITOR OF  
"NOR' BY EAST" FOR THE LOAN OF THIS NICE PICTURE, THANK YOU MISS BEATRICE.  
NOTE THE 50 YEAR PLAQUE, THE "COMMODORE'S" YACHTING CAP, ETC!

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## EDITORS OPINION

### EDITOR'S OPINION:

THE BIG NEWS STORY IN THIS ISSUE IS THAT ROB-ROY, W8HR HAS TAKEN OVER THE EDITING AND PRINTING OF THE OOTC BLUEBOOK. YOGB-II CRIED GREAT CROCODILE TEARS ALL OVER THE JUNE ISSUE OF SGT ABOUT NOT HAVING THE TIME TO EDIT THE BLUEBOOK AND ROB-ROY TOOK PITY ON HIM. BLESS YOUR HEART ROBIE! YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO MUCH FOR THE CLUB BY MAKING THE COVERS FOR "SPARK-GAP TIMES" AND THE HALFTONES THAT IT JUST SEEMS LIKE TOO MUCH FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL TO DO.

IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR ROBIE TO GET ORGANIZED AND SORT ALL THE PICTURES AND BIOGRAPHIES OUT. THE ALUMINUM PLATES THAT CARRIED THE PICTURES OF THE FIRST BATCH OF MEMBERS WERE BADLY OXIDIZED AND MANY CANNOT BE USED. THE PAPER MASTERS CARRYING THE BIOGRAPHIES WERE DESTROYED. POSSIBLY THE BIOGRAPHIES CAN BE LIFTED OFF THE PRINTED SHEETS BY THERMOFAX PROCESS BUT FOR THE PICTURE PLATES THAT ARE OXIDIZED, NEW ONES WILL HAVE TO BE MADE. IT IS A MESS ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT AND IT WILL TAKE AN EXPERT LITHOGRAPHER TO FIGURE IT OUT.

DON'T EXPECT BLUEBOOK SHEETS UNTIL YOU SEE THEM! ROBIE WILL DO HIS BEST. THE MAIN THING IS IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN A PICTURE OF YOURSELF DO SO AT ONCE. AS ROBIE SAYS A PICTURE TAKEN AT THE 5¢ & 10¢ STORE IS BETTER THAN NO PICTURE AT ALL. THE PICTURE SHOULD BE 2" x 2". ROBIE'S ADDRESS IS ON THE INSIDE OF THE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE OF SGT WITH THE OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

WE HAD ANOTHER VOLUNTEER FOR THE BLUEBOOK EDITOR'S JOB. EUNICE, W1MPP CAME THROUGH AND OFFERED TO TAKE THE JOB ON. YOGB-II HAD ALREADY MADE THE SHIPMENT OF THE BLUEBOOK MATERIAL TO ROB-ROY WHEN EUNICE'S OFFER ARRIVED. EUNICE AND HER HUSBAND KEN HAVE A FINE LITERARY TALENT AND KNOW ALL ABOUT PICA'S, ETC. THAT LAYOUT JOB THEY DID ON THE W1ZE STORY PROVED THAT. THANKS, EUNICE AND KEN, FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THE JOB—IT IS VERY DEEPLY APPRECIATED—MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW. PERHAPS WHEN "SPARK-GAP TIMES" HAS GYRATED AROUND FOR AWHILE YOU WILL CONSIDER TAKING ON THE EDITORSHIP OF IT. WE DON'T KNOW NUTHIN' ABOUT EDITING SUCH A JOURNAL

AND DON'T KNOW A PICA FROM A COMMA.

OUR COVER PICTURE THIS MONTH SHOWS ONE OF OUR EMINENT MEMBERS AND HIS WIFE, GEORGE AND MARGARET STERLING, IN THEIR SUMMER HOME AT PEAKS ISLAND, MAINE.

YOU WILL NOTE THE YACHTING CAP IN THE PICTURE. GEORGE, WE UNDERSTAND, IS THE COMMODORE OF THE YACHT CLUB AND LOVES THE WATER. A VERY VERY NICE PICTURE, FOLKS, AND WE ARE INDEBTED TO BEATRICE CHAPMAN, EDITOR OF "NOR' BY EAST" FOR IT.

WELL BY THE TIME YOU HAVE THIS COPY IN HAND IT WILL BE ABOUT TIME FOR THE NATIONAL ARRL CONVENTION IN NEW YORK. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW YORK HILTON AUGUST 21,22,23. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. WE HAD A CALL OVER THE LAND LINE FROM STAN ZAK THE MANAGER OF THE CONVENTION AND HE SAYS IF BARRY GOLDWATER IS NOMINATED AS THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT THE CONVENTION WILL BE A HOWLING SUCCESS. BARRY IS DUE TO ADDRESS THE CONVENTION BANQUET. THE ONLY CHANGE HE EXPECTS TO MAKE IN THE WHITE HOUSE IS TO ERECT A BEAM ANTENNA ON IT. BRUCE KELLEY, W2ICE, ASSURES OOTC MEMBERS THAT THE PROGRAM "120 YEARS OF BRASSPOUNDING" IS A FAST MOVING ENTERTAINING SHOW, SURE TO PLEASE. THIS IS THE SHOW WHICH WILL BE PUT ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 22ND FOR THE "GRAND GATHERING OF OLD TIME WIRELESS OPERATORS." WE HAD A NICE QSO WITH JOHN, W2FX, PRESIDENT OF QCWA, THE OTHER DAY AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HIM AT THE CONVENTION. HE WAS TALKING TO AN 11 - JUST BEFORE I HOOKED UP WITH HIM AND THE 11 - WAS CHECKING WITH HIM ABOUT A LARGE GROUP OF ITALIAN HAMS HE WAS BRINGING OVER FOR THE CONVENTION, HI!

THERE SEEMS TO BE QUITE A WIDE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG OOTC MEMBERS ABOUT SGT. SOME LIKE IT HOT, SOME LIKE IT COLD, AND SOME DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL. WE'LL BE GLAD TO DEVELOPE IT ANY WAY THE MOST OF YOU MEMBERS WANT IT. DON'T BE BASHFUL ABOUT TELLING YOGB-II WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE. DON'T GET TOO LOUD WITH THE CRITICISM HOWEVER AS WE ARE LIABLE TO PUT THE EDITOR'S MANTLE ON YOU. DOES ANYONE WANT TO BE EDITOR? !

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## LETTERS

OOTC:

404 MELROSE ST.  
SCHENECTADY 6 N.Y.

ENCLOSED IS CHECK TO COVER COST OF SPARK GAP TIMES FOR A TIME AND A BIT LEFT OVER FOR THE "KITTY".

ITS WONDERFUL THE WAY THE FELLERS ARE CHIPPING IN TO MAKE A VERY INTERESTING NEWS SHEET OF IT. THE PHOTOS OF FOLKS WE DID KNOW WAY BACK WHEN, AND PHOTOS OF FELLERS WE HAVE "TALKED TO" AND HAVE NEVER SEEN NOR MET VIA WIRELESS.

ABOUT THE MAIN NEWS FROM THIS LOCALITY, IS THAT FOR THE PAST 16 MONTHS I'VE BEEN WORKING IN TV XMTRS AND FM XMTRS, STILL FOR THE GE CO. BUT AT WRGB CH 6 AND WGFM 99.5 MCS. HAVING CLOSED DOWN THE OLD VOICE OF AMERICA TRANSMITTERS AT SO. SCHENECTADY, WGEO 1,2,63. AND OPERATIONS HAVE SHIFTED TO GOVT. STN. AT N.C.

THESE STATIONS WERE OLD W2XAD, W2XAF AND W2XAG HAVING FIRED WAY BACK IN THE EARLY 1920'S AMONG THE FIRST HIGH POWERED INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING STATIONS... ACTUALLY ONE OF 'EM WAS OLD W2XJ OPERATING ON "VERY HIGH FREQUENCIES" OF ABOUT 3 MCS TO AS HIGH AS 12 MCS AROUND 1919..BUT THEY ARE NO MORE NOW. THE OLD SO. SCHENECTADY PLANT WAS A SHOWPLACE FOR YEARS, EMPLOYING AS MANY AS 100 OR MORE ENGS. AT TIMES..DEVELOPING JUST ABOUT EVERY KIND OF TRANSMISSIONS INCLUDING SSB IN THE MIDDLE 1920'S..ANTENNAS ARE GOING TO ROT AND THE PLACE LOOKS KINDA SAD..MANY OF THE BLDGS. TORN DOWN ETC. IT WAS JUST LIKE HOME FOR ME HAVING STARTED THERE IN 1926 AFTER LEAVING RCA IN NYC.

SO AT THE MOMENT HAVE OVER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE IN RADIO BROADCAST WITH GE CO. IN CLOSING DOWN..SOME OF THE BOYS WENT WITH TV AND BROADCAST CONTROL..COUPLE LEFT TO GO WITH VOA SUCH AS BOB VADNEY (W2OVY) AND RALPH DEGRAFF (W2HUB) E. G. NICKLE (W2EGN) AND MYSELF ARE AT TV XMTR.

BY WAY, WENT UP IN MY MOMMAS ATTIC, (SHE IS IN HER LATE 80'S) AND LOOKING OVER SOME OLD RADIO GEAR I LEFT THERE FOR MANY YEARS PAST, AND CAME ACROSS MY ONCE PRIDE AND JOY..AN ELECTRO IMPORTING COMPANY SPARK COIL, BELIEVE IT IS A ONE INCHER..AND AS NEARLY AS I CAN MAKE OUT THE OLD INSPECTION TAG ON BASE IT SEZ, MAY 2, 1912, SERIAL #157? 263 FULTON ST. NYC AND NEARLY AS OLD AS IS.

THIS OLD UNDERWOOD MILL I'M USING. BOTH BRING ANTIQUE'S NOW.

HOW TIME PASSES..WAY BACK WHEN, IN WGY' GROUP, IF THEY FIRED EVERYONE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, THEY WOULD'A CLOSED DOWN THE PLANT.. AND WOULD'A BEEN HARD UP EVEN IF THEY ELIMINATED THE GROUP UNDER 21 YEARS OLD.. BUT HOW MANY HAVE RETIRED AND A GOOD SHARE ARE APPROACHING THAT AGE..AND OF COURSE SAD TO RELATE MANY HAVE PASSED ON SUCH AS OUR GOOD FRIEND AND EX CHIEF ENG. HARRY SADENWATER.

SINCERELY,  
GEORGE M. HOFFER (W2AVG)

\*\*\*\*\*

RADIO AMATEUR OLD TIMERS' ASSOCIATION  
16 ASHRIDGE GARDENS  
PALMERS GREEN  
LONDON, N. 13

OOTC:

ON BEHALF OF ALL THE 75 MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION PRESENT AT THE SIXTH REUNION ON MAY 8, I SEND YOU FRATERNAL GREETINGS AND THANK YOU FOR THE MESSAGE YOU SENT TO US VIA G6BY. I ENCLOSE HEREWITH A COPY OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH YOU MAY LIKE TO HAVE FOR YOUR RECORDS.

YOU MAY LIKE TO NOTE THAT I AM THE ONLY OFFICER OF THE ASSOCIATION WHICH I FOUNDED IN 1958. I WAS SECRETARY OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN FOR 34 YEARS UNTIL I RETIRED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR AND I AM NOW WRITING A HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
JOHN CLARRICOATS O.B.E (G6CL)

\*\*\*\*\*

1111 5TH STREET  
DEVILS LAKE, N. DAK.

OOTC:

FIRST: CHECK FOR \$3.50 - \$2.50 FOR SUBSCRIPTION FOR SPARK-GAP TIMES, \$1.00 FOR 200 GUMMED STAMPS, PLUS SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH 10 CENTS IN STAMPS FOR SAME.

NOW IF YOU HAVE TIME TO READ THIS, A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. IN 1916 IN THE FALL OR EARLY

## OOTC LETTERS CONTINUED...

IN 1917 THE NAVY DEPARTMENT OR THE US NAVAL RESERVE SENT OUT A LETTER OR A NOTICE THAT IT WOULD GIVE A RATING TO ANY LICENSE HOLDER WHO ENLISTED IN THE USNRF. AS I RECALL IT I DID TAKE AN EXAM IN FARGO N. DAK. EARLY IN 1947 FOR THAT SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND AS I RECALL I GOT SOME KIND OF A CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE AND IMMEDIATELY APPLIED FOR A RATING TO THE US NAVY AND ENLISTED ON APRIL 17, 1917 AND IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO SERVICE, WITH A WRITTEN PERMIT FROM MY PARENTS. THEY GAVE ME A RATING OF 3RD CLASS ELECTRICIAN, RADIO AND AWAY I WENT TO SERVICE IN MANY PLACES AND ON MANY SHIPS.

NOW IN ORDER TO GET AN OLD TIMER LICENSE I MUST HAVE PROOF BUT THAT I AM UNABLE TO DO. SINCE I WAS BUT A YOUNGSTER AND WITH A YOUNGESTER'S MEMORY I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT EXCEPT THAT I HAD SOMETHING AND THE NAVY DID TAKE ME AND GIVE ME A RATING. THIS MUCH I HAVE FROM THE NAVY BUT I DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THAT NAVY NOTICE NOR CAN I LOCATE ANYONE WHO HAS ONE BUT SEVERAL REMEMBER IT. WOULD SOMEONE OF THE OLD OLD TIMERS REMEMBER THE LETTER OR HOW THE NAVY NOTIFIED AMATEURS AT THAT TIME THAT THEY WERE NEEDED AND WANTED. WITH THIS I COULD PROVE TO THE FCC THAT I WAS SUCH AN OPERATOR. THE NAVY ADMITS I WAS RATED ON ENLISTMENT BUT HAS NO RECORD OF HOW THE AMATEURS WERE NOTIFIED OR ASKED TO ENLIST.

THIS OF COURSE IS A VERY MINOR THING BUT AS ONE GETS OLDER HE SEEMS TO WANT THIS STUFF IF FOR NOTHING BUT HIS OWN SATISFACTION. CAN ANY OLD OLD TIMER HELP OUT. THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RECORDS FOR THAT PERIOD SEEM TO BE AMONG THE MISSING.

INCIDENTALLY I AM THE OWNER AND CHIEF ENGINEER OF KOLR AND HAVE BEEN SINCE I STARTED THE PLANT ON JAN. 25TH, 1925 AND HOPE TO COMPLETE 40 YEARS, SAME JOB, SAME STATION, ON JANUARY 25, 1965. OTHER THAN THAT I HAVE NO CLAIM TO FAME, NEVER INVENTED ANYTHING, JUST AN OLD HORSE WITH A MOST INTERESTING JOB AND HOBBY.

THANK YOU FOR THE VERY FINE JOB THAT YOU AND YOUR FELLOW HELPERS ARE DOING WITH OOTC.

VERY TRULY YOURS,  
BERT WICK 9AEJ- KØSOE.

\*\*\*\*\*

606 EUCLID  
GLEN ELLYN, ILL.

OOTC:

MAYBE YOU ARE THE WRONG ONE TO WRITE A LETTER TO ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN OOTC. JACK DUNN TOLD ME BILL MCKEE, JR., WIKC WAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN. BILL SENT ME BERT OSBORNE'S LETTER WHICH HAD A DIRECTION FOR INTERESTED AMATEURS TO WRITE YOU ABOUT MEMBERSHIP. SO HERE GOES. CONSIDER THIS AN APPLICATION AND THE CHECK FOR \$15.00 IS ENCLOSED.

LOGS IN MY POSSESSION INDICATE THAT I GOT MY AMATEUR OPERATOR'S LICENSE ON OCTOBER 30, 1923. FOR A WHILE I WAS AN OPERATOR OF STATION 98FI IN MINNEAPOLIS BUT IN DECEMBER OF 1923, WE MOVED THE STATION TO MY HOME AT 4522 DUPONT AVE., S MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA WHERE I OPERATED UNTIL 1928. IN MY POSSESSION I STILL HAVE AMATEUR OPERATOR'S LICENSE 31555 ISSUED ON MAY 7, 1924 AND STATION LICENSE FOR 9APA (989-B) DATED JULY 23, 1924. THESE WERE NOT MY FIRST LICENSE BUT THEY ARE THE FIRST I STILL HAVE AROUND, AND THEY WERE PRECEDED BY THE USUAL FORD SPARK COIL ACTIVITY AT AN EARLIER DATE.

USING FIVE TO TEN WATTS OF C.W. 9APA WAS OPERATED WITH MANY CONTACTS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1924 AND THEN PUT ON THE UN-ALLOCATED HIGH FREQUENCIES IN THE FALL OF THAT YEAR. LATE IN THAT YEAR POWER WAS INCREASED TO 50 WATTS INPUT--IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY THE TUBE WAS DESIGNATED A UV203A. AFTER A FEW YEARS OF ACTIVITY I DROPPED OUT OF HAM RADIO IN 1928 FOR 30 YEARS. MY SECOND GO ROUND STARTED IN 1958 WITH THE CALL K9PZO AT THIS ADDRESS. A DX35 GAVE WAY TO A VALIANT AND THAT IS NOW SUPPLEMENTED WITH AN NCX3. THE REVIVAL OF INTEREST HAS RESULTED IN DXCC. MY QCWA NUMBER IS 3648 AND MY CHC NUMBER IS 1118. I DON'T EXPECT EVER TO LET THE TICKET LAPSE AGAIN.

IN PRIVATE LIFE I AM 56 YEARS OLD AND THE SEC.-TREAS. OF THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF GRAHAM, ANDERSON, PROBST & WHITE, DISTINGUISHED FOR SUCH LOCAL LANDMARKS AS THE MERCHANDISE MART, POST OFFICE, FIELD BUILDING, SHEDD ACQUARIUM, MUSEUMS OF NATURAL SCIENCE AND SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY,

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## OOTC LETTERS CONTINUED...

IF ANYTHING MORE IS NEEDED TO VALIDATE THIS APPLICATION, LET ME KNOW.

73,

KENNETH W. RDWE, K9PZD

\*\*\*\*\*

175 W. 12TH ST. APT. 12-F  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011 U.S.A.

OOTC:

AFTER WHAT WENT ON LAST THURSDAY 7-8 P.M. ON OOTC NET ON 75 METERS, WHEN I WAS NOMINATED FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE O.O.T.C., I THOUGHT IT BEST TO DROP YOU A NOTE K2BX MADE NOMINATION AND SO MANY NICE THINGS WERE SAID BY THE 15 MEMBERS ON THE NET, I SHOULD HAVE TAPED IT TO PROVE I DO HAVE FRIENDS! EVEN MY WIFE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

MERRILL SAID I WAS SECRETARY OF RADIO CLUB IN MONMOUTH COUNTY, N.J. NO! I WAS TREASURER AND HANDLED 2 BIG HAM "FESTS" - SPENT \$7500 AT ONE AND \$5000 AT SECOND. I WAS SECRETARY OF 2 METER NET FOR YEARS, (JUST TO GET THE RECORD STRAIGHT).

ALSO YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE (I AM A WHITE ONE) - ON LEFT OF PICTURE IN CASE YOU WONDER.

SINCERELY AND 73

HAROLD V. B. VOORHIS

OOTC "SEVENTY-FIVE NET" BY HAROLD V.B. VOORHIS

ON OCTOBER 30, 1962, I STARTED TO MONITOR THIS NET, WHICH I HAVE DONE SIXTY-THREE TIMES OUT OF THE SEVENTY TIMES IT WAS SCHEDULED TO OPERATE. DURING THIS PERIOD SIXTY-ONE OOTC MEMBERS HAVE BEEN LOGGED (EITHER IN BROOKLYN, WHERE I RESIDED THE FIRST YEAR, AND THEN IN MANHATAN) THE NUMBER OF TIMES MEMBERS HAVE RESPONDED ON THE NET FOLLOWS:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| W2EBT - 61 | WIUL - 17  |
| VE2BG - 56 | VE2TA - 17 |
| W2EG - 55  | WIPU - 16  |
| WIZE - 52* | WIEJ - 12  |
| W2MAB - 51 | WIMH - 12  |
| W2MDB - 51 | WIPS - 12  |
| W2GTB - 48 | W2KE - 12  |
| W10J - 47  | WIGP - 11  |
| K2BX - 45  | WIUE - 11  |
| WIMPP - 35 | W2RZ - 10  |
| WIPJM - 35 | WIAGM - 8  |
| WIPNY - 28 | WIED - 8   |
| K2NP - 27  | W2ZI - 7   |

W1AOG - 26

WITOL - 21

WIAE - 20

\* OUT OF 53

W2LP - 7

W2FG - 6

FIVE TIMES - W1AIJ; W1A01; W1BHD; VE2SF

FOUR TIMES - W2KDB; W1OW

THREE TIMES - W1GE; W2AA0; W2ZM; VE2CP

TWO TIMES - W1PO; W1RYB; W1DFS; W2DH;

W1JLK; W2MMN; W1OUO

ONE TIME - W1CM; W1ANA; W1MJ; W1AYZ

W1LN; W1NHO; W1DYC; W1IW;

W1KJ; W2DEW; W2AEC; W3OY;

W4ZJ.

RECAPITULATION:

FIRST DISTRICT 36

SECOND DISTRICT 19

THIRD DISTRICT 1

FOURTH DISTRICT 1

CANADA 4

TOTAL 61

I HAVE CARDS FROM ALL BUT ONE OF THOSE HEARD, PLUS FOURTEEN OTHER OOTC MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS BY DISTRICTS:

|   |    |                            |
|---|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | 36 |                            |
| 2 | 26 | THE NET CONTROL, UNTIL HIS |
| 3 | 3  | PASSING ON JAN. 30, 1964   |
| 4 | 1  | WAS WIZE AND SINCE THEN IT |
| 6 | 1  | HAS BEEN WIMPP.            |
| 7 | 1  |                            |
| 8 | 1  |                            |
| Ø | 1  |                            |
| C | 4  |                            |
| F | 1  |                            |

75

\*\*\*\*\*

DID YOU KNOW?

SMITH IS THE MOST COMMON NAME IN THE UNITED STATES. JOHNSON IS NEXT AND SO ON DOWN THE LIST.

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| #1 SMITH    | #6 JONES    |
| #2 JOHNSON  | #7 DAVIS    |
| #3 BROWN    | #8 ANDERSON |
| #4 WILLIAMS | #9 WILSON   |
| #5 MILLER   | #10 TAYLOR  |

BET YOU THOUGHT THAT JONES WAS FIRST.

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REPRESENTANTE EN SUD AMERICA  
AUGUSTO E. OSORIO LU2AO  
ACOTTE 443-BUENOS AIRES-  
ARGENTINA, MAY 28/64

OOTC:

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED THE NUMBER 21, VOL. 4 OF "SPARK-GAP-TIMES", AS INTERESTING AS EVER, OR STILL BETTER. MY CONGRATULATIONS, BERT. VERY FINE. I ENCLOSE SOME INFORMATION FOR THE PAGE IN SPANISH, THAT SURELY WILL BE APPRECIATED FOR THE OOTC MEMBERS OF LATIN AMERICA. I READ THE PAGE 22 OF THE LAST SGT. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR NOTES.

ALSO TODAY I AM SENDING TO THE SEC.-TREAS. W2EG, THE APPLICATION OF A NEW MEMBER IN ARGENTINE: LU9BG-COL. RICARDO MARAMBIO. HE IS PRESIDENTE OF THE RADIO CLUB MILITAR ARGENTINO AND AN ENGINEER IN THE ARMY. WITH THIS OT THERE ARE 6 LU'S MEMBERS OF THE OOTC.

VERY GOOD IDEA THAT YOU HAVE TO SEND THE SGT, VIA AIR MAIL. MANY THANKS.

FRATERNALLY YOURS, WITH BEST 73'S

AUGUSTO

\*\*\*\*\*

ROBERT M. STEPHENS, WIAEW  
20 LINDOR STREET  
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

OOTC:

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR SGT FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS. I INTENDED TO SEND IT ALONG EARLIER, BUT OVER LOOKED IT FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS I GUESS.

I AM SO BUSY WITH WORK THAT THERE IS LITTLE TIME FOR HAM RADIO, BUT HOPE CAN FIND MORE TIME IN THE FUTURE. STILL HAVE 5 YEARS TO GO BEFORE RETIREMENT AT AGE 65, WHEN I REALLY WILL HAVE TIME TO HELP AND BECOME MORE ACTIVE AGAIN.

SURELY APPRECIATE YOUR WORK AND ALSO THAT OF ALL OF THE OOTC WHO PUT TOGETHER THE FINE BULLETIN. COMPARED WITH THE REAL EARLY MEMBERS I AM REALLY A YOUNG SQUIRT, BUT I AM HAPPY TO BE A PART OF THE OOTC.

AT THE TIME OF APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP I SENT IN PHOTO OF MYSELF (APRIL 15, 1963) SO FAR I HAVEN'T MADE THE ROSTER LISTING ON PHOTO PAGES. I ALSO SENT MY EARLY HISTORY.

IF THIS HAS BEEN MISPLACED I'LL BE HAPPY TO PUT IT TOGETHER AGAIN. PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

73

BOB, WIAEW

\*\*\*\*\*

SS GAINES MILL/KUCL  
HONOLULU-HAWAII, JUNE 20/64

OOTC:

SEEMS SOME OF US OTS ARE SHORT ON MEMORY..IF I'M IN ARREARS, ENCLOSURE IS FOR NOW, OTHERWISE..NEXT YEAR.

SGT IS A WHALE OF A BIG UNDERTAKING AND GOOD!

ANY OTHER OOTC MEMBERS, BESIDES "THIS OLE GOAT, STILL ACTIVELY POUNDING SALT-WATER BRASS?

"73"

ARMOND D. BRATTLAND

\*\*\*\*\*

ROGERS ELECTRIC & RADIO  
359 BROCK AVE.  
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

OOTC:

THE 1964 JUNE ISSUE OF SGT WAS THE FINEST EVER IF THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE, ALL ISSUES BEING F.B. THE ARTICLES ABOUT IRVING WIZE WAS AUTHENTIC AS I CAN VOUCH FOR AS I LIVED THRU ABOUT 99% OF IT EVEN IF I WAS A YOUNG SQUIRT AS THE "OM" OF "QST" MIGHT SAY.

I SENT EUNICE WIMPP ALL THE CLIPPINGS ETC THAT I HAD ABOUT "VN" AND SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME I SENT HER SHE DID NOT HAVE. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT WRITE-UP ALL THE WAY THROUGH.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME I THINK THAT IRVING WOULD STILL BE WITH US IF ESPECIALLY THE LOCALS VISITED HIM A BIT MORE. HE WAS A CONSTANT VISITOR AT MY SHOP IN THE 1950'S BUT SINCE 1957 I HAVE SPENT THE WINTERS IN W6-L.A. CALIF. WITH MY JR. OPR. AND I WAS DOING "POORLY" MYSELF. IT WAS A BIG BLOW TO ME AT IRVING'S PASSING BECAUSE I FOLLOWED HIS CAREER FROM BEING IN SHORT PANTS. I CAN HEAR THAT PERFECT FIST SENDING I HAA ON SPARK. I COULD COPY HIM TO A GOOD SPEED BECAUSE HE WAS A "MAN WITH A KEY".

"73"

GEORGE ROGERS SR.  
WIAVY

# Spark-Gap Times

AUGUST 1964

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THOMAS A. McCANN  
146 HILLCREST AVE.  
BURNHAM PARK  
MORRISTOWN, N.J.

OOTC:

DIDN'T KNOW SGT WAS MY SUBSCRIPTION AND DIDN'T KNOW THERE IS A CHARGE OF SOME KIND FOR THE "BLUEBOOK". NOTE YOUR SOS P.7 JUNE '64 SGT, ASKING RETURN OF BOOK IF NOT DESIRED. HAD A HELLAVA TIME FINDING A BOX BUT ITS COMING BACK WITH THIS LETTER. I NEVER USE IT SO DONATE IT TO SOMEONE WHO MIGHT IF YOU WILL PLEASE. (DON'T ENJOY SGT EITHER SO CROSS ME OFF THE MAILING LIST FOR THAT TOO). A VERY LITTLE OF THIS REMINISCING GOES A LONG WAY WITH ME. I'LL GET TO MY OLD DOTAGE SOON ENOUGH AND I WANT TO KEEP BUSY LOOKING AHEAD AND MOVING ALONG WITH THE TIMES.

"73"

TOM K2CM

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136 SPRINGHOUSE ROAD  
LANCASTER, PA. 17603  
JUNE 10, 1964

OOTC:

FIRST OF ALL I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE VERY NICE JOB YOU ARE DOING AS ACTING EDITOR OF SGT. I EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO EACH NEW EDITION AND QUITE FREQUENTLY RUN ACROSS SOME ARTICLE THAT BRINGS BACK MANY PLEASANT MEMORIES WHILE I WAS A MARCONI WIRELESS CO. SHIP OPERATOR DURING THE YEARS 1916 THRU 1920.

IN THE JUNE 1964 ISSUE ON PAGE 32 YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO STATION 8AEZ, M.B. WEST, LIMA, OHIO, TAKEN FROM THE AUGUST 1916 ISSUE OF QST, I PRESUME.

ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE OPERATING TABLE I NOTICE A PAIR OF MAGNETS, ONE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE "AUDION" TUBE. THAT WAS AN OLD TRICK TO INCREASE THE SIGNAL STRENGTH AND IT WORKED VERY SUCCESSFULLY I FOUND.

HOWEVER, MY MAIN REASON FOR WRITING TO YOU IS TO FIND OUT IF YOU WOULD KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF MR. WEST AT PRESENT. HE IS NOT LISTED IN THE OOTC ROSTER NOR THE QCWA YEAR BOOK. I WOULD LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM IF POSSIBLE.

WHILE ON THE STANDARD OIL OF N.J. TANKER, THE S.S. BATON ROUGE, ENROUTE TO BATON ROUGE, LA., ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 13, 1916, I HEARD 8AEZ AT 11.15 PM EST. THAT SAME EVENING I ALSO HEARD THE FOLLOWING STATIONS: 9GY-5BV-9NN-9ABD-9GJ-8RZ-9AED-9YD-9JW-9AAR-9EP AND OAMI. ON THE 11TH I HEARD

5BM-5CD-5CH-5ER-5AG-5ZC AND SEC.

I OFTEN WONDERED IF ANY OF THESE FELLOWS ARE STILL AROUND. IF YOU HAVE SOME SPACE AVAILABLE IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF SGT I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD PRINT THE ABOVE INQUIRY AND SEE IF I WOULD GET ANY RESPONSE FROM SOME OF THE OOTC MEMBERS.

I AM ENCLOSING A SELF-ADDRESSED POSTAL CARD TO HAVE YOU REPLY VERY BRIEFLY IF YOU HAVE MR. WEST'S ADDRESS, IF SO, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOU GIVING IT TO ME.

I STILL HAVE SEVERAL DIARIES WHICH I KEPT WHILE AFLOAT. I WAS READING THRU SOME OF THEM RECENTLY AND FOUND SOME VERY INTERESTING ENTRIES WOULD YOU CARE TO HAVE SOME OF THE INFORMATION IF I WRITE IT UP FOR SGT? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

"73"

ARTHUR C. JACOBY W3OY  
OOTC #404

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E. J. SCOTT W8AYS  
1564 MAPLE ROAD  
CLEVELAND 21, OHIO

OOTC:

WOULD YOU PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE MAILING LIST OF SPARK-GAP TIMES.

ALL MY YEARS IN AMATEUR RADIO HAVE BEEN AS A "HAM" AND I FIND LITTLE TO INTEREST ME IN READING ABOUT THE OLD TIME COMMERCIAL OPERATORS. I AM MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE OLD TIMERS ARE DOING IN AMATEUR RADIO TODAY AND ENJOY CONTACTING THEM OVER THE AIR VIA CW BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE OR WHAT BANDS ANY OF THEM OPERATE AND NO SUCH INFORMATION IN SGT.

I THINK THE SIZE OF SGT COULD BE REDUCED TO HALF OF ITS PRESENT SIZE TO REDUCE THE COST AND MAILING AND IT WOULD FIT IN WITH OTHER MAGAZINES AS QST ETC.

LOTS OF LUCK, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND HOPE TO SEE YOU LATER.

"73"

C. J. SCOTT, W8AYS

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## " THE LATIN AMERICAN PAGE "

### NUEVOS MIEMBROS DEL OOTC EN ARGENTINA

EN LOS ULTIMOS DOS MESES HAN INGRESADO DOS NUEVOS MIEMBROS ARGENTINOS AL OOTC, SON EL DR. MARTIN HIDALGO, LU5AH Y EL CANEL. ING. RICARDO MARAMBIO, LU9BG.

CON LOS NOMBRADOS LLEGAN A SEIS LOS LU MIEMBROS DEL OOTC. LOS QRA Y QTH DE AMBOS FIGURAN CORRECTAMENTE EN LA GUIA RADIO N° 39 Y EN EL CALL BOOK AMERICANO.

### CENTRO RADIO VETERANOS

EL CENTRO DE RADIOVETERANOS REALIZO SU ASAMBLEA ANUAL EL DIA 21 DE MAYO PPD. CON LA PRESENCIA DE NUMEROSOS SOCIOS. EN LA OPORTUNIDAD SE RINDIO UN EMOTIVO HOMENAJE A LOS RADIOVETERANOS FALLECIDOS DURANTE EL ULTIMO EJERCICIO: ARRABARUENA-ASTRALDI-ISSELLA-LANZA RAFFO-F.G. RODRIGUEZ Y TAMBIEN A LA MEMORIA DE LOS PIONEROS CARLOS BRAGGIO EX CB8 Y IVAN O'MEARA, ZL2AC, EN OCASION DE CUMPLIRSE LOS 40 AÑOS DEL MEMORABLE QSO QUE UNIO POR VEZ PRIMERA NUEVA ZELANDIA CON ARGENTINA, SIENDO ENTONCES EL DE MAYOR DISTANCIA.

SE APROBO LA MEMORIA Y BALANCE. LA MODIFICACION DE LA FECHA DE TERMINACION DEL EJERCICIO LLEVANDOLA AL 31 DE ENERO SIGUIENTE.

SE DESIGNO VETERANO DE RADIO HONORARIO AL SR. F. GRAUPNER, LU2DJM Y SE ADMITIO UN NUEVO SOCIO; AL ING. ERVIN KAPUS, LU3BR.

SE NOMBRÓ UNA NUEVA COMISION DIRECTIVA, QUE QUEDO COMPUESTA DE LA SIGUIENTE FORMA; PRESIDENTE: GRAL. ESTANISLAD LOPEZ LU7AB, (MEMBER OOTC); SECRETARIO: AUGUSTO E. OSORIO, LU2AO, (OOTC); TESORERO: NICANOR J. AREVALO, LU9AN, (OOTC); VOCAL: RICARDO MARAMBIO, LU9BG, (OOTC); ERNESTO ROX, LU3AJ.

REVISORES DE CUENTAS: MARCELION REY, LUICA Y ALFREDO PARODI, LU2BH.

A CONTINUACION SE SIRVIÓ UN VINO DE HONOR, PROLONGANDOSE LA CORDIAL REUNION HASTA LAS PRIMERAS HORAS DE LA NOCHE.

### RADIO CLUB ARGENTINO

EL RADIO CLUB ARGENTINO, ENTIDAD DECANA DE LOS RADIOCLUBES DE ARGENTINA, CON 43 AÑOS DE EXISTENCIA, REALIZO EL 11 DE ABRIL ULTIMO, SU ASAMBLEA ANUAL, CON LA RENOVACION DE SU COMISION DIRECTIVA QUE QUEDO COMPUESTA DE LA SIGUIENTE FORMA:

PRESIDENTE: O. O. MAURO, LU2AA; VICE 1°; MARIANO ABASTAS, LU7EE; VICE 2°; M. L. DUBARRY LU1BK; SECRETARIO; L. FERNANDEZ, LU4DHJ;

PROSECRET; A.E. LAFFUE, LU7AL; TESORERO; B. VECCHIO, LU9AEI; PROTESOR, R. ELIAS, LU4AU. VOCAL: A. V. CATTI, LU6DFD; J. D. COSTAS, LU6DGG; J. C. DIAZ, LU8ABR; C. DORIA, LU9ABU; A. M. PARODI, LU2BH; J. J. SANTOS, LU5CI; E. STECCA, LU7CA; J. C. VAZQUEZ, LU7AF; Y. R. VELO, LU1ACK.

VOCAL SUPLENTE: A. E. ARBELAIZ, LU5CY; S. CUADROS, LU1AV; E. M. FITON, LU7AR; T. G. JEWKERS, LU4DEG; A.M. REPETTO, LU4DR Y E.J. TRISCIUZZI, LU7ADX.

EN LA PRIMERA REUNION DE COMISION DIRECTIVA SE DESIGNARON LAS SIGUIENTES COMISIONES INTERNAS: SE INDICA EL NOMBRE DE LA MISMA Y DEL PRESIDENTE CORRESPONDIENTE:

CEREMONIAL: J. C. DIAZ; CERTIFICADOS Y QSL: C. HARDY, LU1DJU; COMUNICACIONES: E. C. ANDRADE, LU1AC; CONCURSOS: M. DUBARRY; ENSEÑANZA: M. ABASTAS; BIBLIOTECA: C. BORDOY; HACIENDAS: B. VECCHIO; INTENDENCIA: A. CATTI; INTERIOR: C. BORDOY; PRENSA Y PROPAGANDA: A. E. OSORIO (OOTC) Y REPUBLICAS: E. STECCA.

POSTERIORMENTE SE DESIGNO ASESOR LETRADO AL DOCTOR L. L. LEFEVRE, LU2BG Y UNA NUEVA COMISION INTERNA DE GRAN IMPORTANCIA PARA LOS LU'S SOCIOS DEL RCA POR CUANTO FACILITARA LA ADQUISICION DE EQUIPOS Y MATERIALES RADIOELECTRICOS, CONFORME A LA NUEVA LEY DE FOMENTO N° 16.118.

LA COMISION ESTA A CARGO DEL DOCTOR MARTIN HIDALGO LU5AH. (OOTC), CON LA EFICAZ COLABORACION DE LOS SRS. ADOLFO GLUCKSMANN, LU3BAO Y NORBERTO LACIO GRISCAUT, LU4BAO-LA NUEVA COMISION SE DENOMINA; COMISION PRO-ADQUISICION DE MATERIALES RADIOELECTRICOS LEY 16.118

### THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC. SECCION BUENOS AIRES.

EN EL PRESENTE AÑO LA INSTITUCION DEL EPIGRAFE CELEBRA SU 25° ANIVERSARIO, PRECISAMENTE EN EL MES DE OCTUBRE, EN CUYA OPORTUNIDAD SE REALIZARAN UNA SERIE DE ACTOS PARA FESTEAR TAN MAGNO ACONTECIMIENTO EN LA VIDA DE LA SECCION BUENOS AIRES DEL ANTIGUO "IRE" LAS ACTUALES AUTORIDADES DE LA SECCION B. A. SON: PRESIDENTE, GERARDO VAN SPANKEREN; VICE PRESIDENTES: OSCAR C. FERNANDEZ; U SECRETARIO-TESORERO: PEREGRINO MARTINEZ. COLABORAN CON LA C.D. VARIAS SUBCOMISIONES. QUE SON; 25° ANIVERSARIO: I. C. GRANT; PUBLICACIONES: O. ARBO; J. RICCI, E. CAPRA; REUNIONES: H. R. HILLMANN; O. R. CANESE; MIEMBROS: C. FERNANDEZ, G. ANDREWS Y A.E.

## " THE LATIN AMERICAN PAGE"

.....CONTINUED.....

Osorio, (OOTC).

### NOTICIAS ESPECIALES DE MIEMBROS DEL OOTC EN ARGENTINA.

HA CAUSADO EXCELENTE IMPRESION ALGUNAS NOTICIAS OBTENIDAS DIRECTAMENTE DE ALGUNOS SOCIOS DEL OOTC EN ARGENTINA. CABE DESTACAR EN ESTE SENTIDO LA REMISION DEL LIBRO TITULADO; "THE WORLD OF Mr. SHERATON" BY ERNEST HENDERSON.

ESTE LIBRO MUY INTERESANTE, RELATA EN UNO DE SUS CAPITULOS DE COMO EL PROTAGONISTA SE HIZO RADIOAFICIONADO.

MOSLEY, EL CONOCIDO FABRICANTE DE ANTENAS DIRECCIONALES, VER "SGT", JUNE 1964, HA ENVIADO UN FOLLETO MUY INTERESANTE, QUE DETALLA ESTAS ANTENAS.

### 30 ANOS DE LICENCIADO

LUZAO HA CUMPLIDO 30 ANOS CONSECUTIVOS CON LA MISMA LICENCIA Y HA EMITIDO UN BADERIN QUE ENVIARA A LOS SOCIOS DEL OOTC QUE LO SOLICITEN POR ESCRITO.

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CHEBEAGUE ISLAND, CASCO BAY. THIS PHOTO IS ALSO BY COURTESY OF NOR' BY EAST. HERE'S A WONDERFUL PLACE TO SPEND THE SUMMER OR TO TAKE A SUMMER VACATION. DO YOU LIKE SEAFOOD? THOSE BEAUTIFUL MAINE LOBSTERS, CLAMS, ETC.? WRITE NOR' BY EAST, BOX 66, PEAKS ISLAND, MAINE, FOR FULL INFORMATION.

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AUGUST 1961

## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

C O P Y

U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AT SEA: 7TH. JULY 1919

FROM: PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:  
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON:  
SUBJECT: EFFICIENT HANDLING OF RADIO-TRAFFIC BY NAVY RADIO, BAR HARBOR, MAINE.

1. DURING THE LAST VOYAGE OF THIS VESSEL CARRYING THE PRESIDENT FROM BREST, FRANCE, TO HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF RADIO MESSAGES WAS HANDLED BY BOTH ARC AND SPARK. IN SPITE OF THE UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS DUE TO HEAVY STATIC, NAVY RADIO, BAR HARBOR, MAINE, COPIED ALL TRAFFIC IN A MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.
2. WHEN SPARK COMMUNICATION WITH BAR HARBOR WAS ESTABLISHED CONGESTION OF HEAVY TRAFFIC DUE TO ELECTRICAL STORMS, WAS AVERTED BY THE RAPID AND EFFICIENT OPERATING AT THE BAR HARBOR, STATION. THE OPERATORS ON DUTY SHOWED A PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF ALL REGULATIONS AND THEIR EFFICIENT OPERATING WAS A GREAT HELP IN RAPIDLY CLEARING THE PRESIDENT'S TRAFFIC.

C. B. ELLSWORTH, CHIEF RADIOMAN, USNRF.

B. G. SEUTTER, CHIEF RADIOMAN, USNRF.

L. E. DUTTON, RADIOMAN 1ST CLASS USNRF.

R. B. ELLIOTT, RADIOMAN 1ST CLASS USNRF.

INDORSEMENT:  
E. McCAULEY,  
REAR ADMIRAL USN

/s/ WOODROW WILSON:  
BY: DIRECTION.

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### 2ND INDORSEMENT

FROM: DIRECTOR OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS:  
TO: CHARLES B. ELLSWORTH, CHIEF RADIOMAN, USNRF:

1. FORWARDED:
2. THIS OFFICE WISHES TO AGAIN COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR EFFICIENT WORK, WHICH IS THE RESULT OF THE ABOVE COMMENDING LETTER.

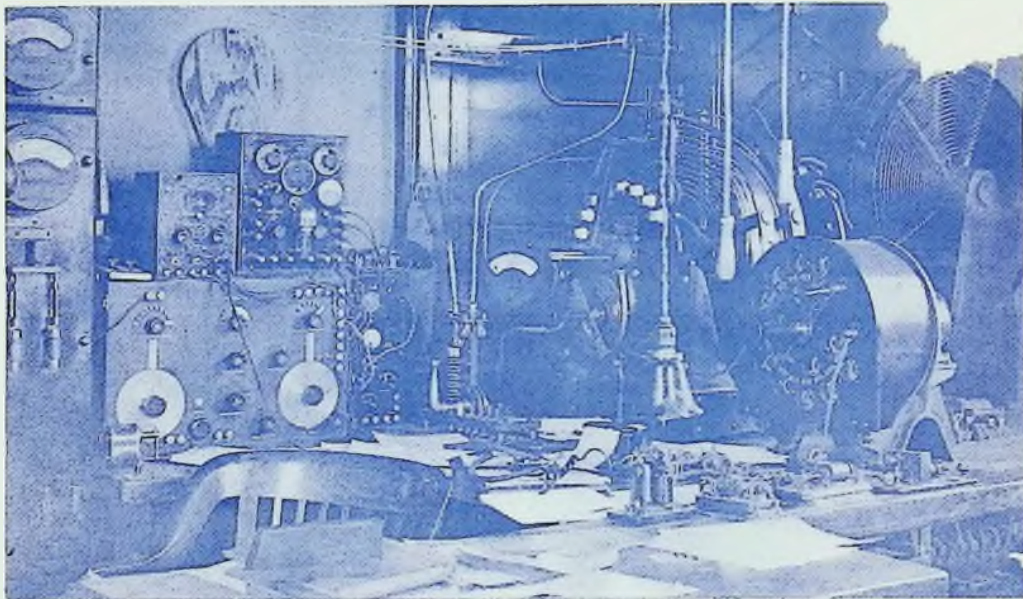
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
s/ E. B. ELLSWORTH

/s/ E. B. WOODWORTH  
CAPTAIN. USN

## STORIES

### RECOLLECTION'S OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

B. B. JACKSON - W6JF



U. S. NAVAL RADIO STATION "NAG", FIRE ISLAND, N. Y., 1919

I THINK IT WAS EITHER IN SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN OR ELECTRICIAN AND MECHANIC MAGAZINE THAT I SAW AN AD OF WIRELESS APPARATUS FOR THE EXPERIMENTER. OF COURSE THE PRICE WAS WAY BEYOND THE ABILITY OF A SCHOOL BOY TO PAY SO I JUST HAD TO DREAM FOR A WHILE. I SENT FOR CATALOGS AND ANY THING WITH THE WORD WIRELESS ON IT. ONE WAS A STOCK PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET FROM THE UNITED WIRELESS COMPANY IN NEW YORK. A SALESMAN CAME TO SEE ME IN A FEW DAYS BUT HE DID NOT STAY LONG AFTER SEEING I WAS JUST A KID. I STUDIED ALL THE CATALOGS FROM COVER TO COVER AND I WILL NEVER FORGET THE DAY TEACHER CAUGHT ME READING AN ELECTRO IMPORTING CO. CATALOG BEHIND MY GEOGRAPHY BOOK. SHE TOOK IT AWAY FROM ME BUT AFTER SCHOOL GAVE IT BACK. SHORTLY AFTER THAT MY FATHER TOOK ME TO THE ELECTRO IMPORTING COMPANY ON WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK AND I PICKED OUT A DOUBLE SLIDE TUNER, AUTO-COHERER, FIXED CONDENSER AND A SINGLE 1000 OHM PHONE. LATER A 1 INCH SPARK COIL AND SO IN THE SPRING OF 1908 I STARTED DISTURBING THE ETHER. TO LEARN

THE CODE I COPIED THE CALLS REPEATEDLY SENT BY SUCH STATIONS AS WA-WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, P-PLAZA HOTEL, NY-42 BROADWAY, SE-SEA GATE AND MANY OTHERS. ONE PROMINENT AMATEUR STATION WAS DOC HUDSON WHO SIGNED DR AND HAD A 14 IN SPARK COIL. HE USED TO CALL SEA GATE AND TELL THEM TO ANSWER A SHIP CALLING. OTHER HAMS WERE VN IRVING VERMILYA, KAN A HAM IN KANE, PA. AND JG JOHN GRINAN OF NEW YORK CITY. WHAT EVER BECAME OF JOHN? HE MOVED TO THE WEST INDIES AND THEN TO FLORIDA. IS HE STILL AROUND OR A SILENT KEY?

I GOT MY FIRST AMATEUR TICKET ON DECEMBER 13, 1912. IT WAS NO. 1587 ISSUED BY GUNNER E. STUART TUCKER AT THE ELECTRICAL SCHOOL IN THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD. IN 1915 I GOT MY FIRST CLASS COMMERCIAL TICKET AND WENT RIGHT OVER TO THE MARCONI CO. FOR A JOB. THAT WAS AT 29 CLIFF ST., NEW YORK CITY. BUT THEY SAID NO. FIRST I HAD TO TAKE A SIX MONTH COURSE AT THE MARCONI SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION AND LEARN ABOUT MARCONI EQUIPMENT AND HOW TO KEEP THE RECORDS, ETC. ELMER BUTCHER WAS THE INSTRUCTOR AND A MAN NAMED WOODS THE CODE INSTRUCTOR. THE SCHOOL WAS ONE FLIGHT UP OVER A PAINT STORE. NICE FIRE TRAP.

## RECOLLECTION'S OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

B. B. JACKSON - W6JF

..CONTINUED..

THEY FINALLY ASSIGNED ME TO JOB OF SECOND OPERATOR ON THE EL RIO, THE SMALLEST TUB OF THE MORGAN LINE. LOUSY FOOD AND LOUSY EVERYTHING. ONE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS WAS ALL I COULD TAKE OF THAT. THEN OVER TO PANAMA R.R. STEAMSHIP LINE AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE COLLIER ULYSSES OUT OF NORFOLK. NEW SHIP AND FINE FOOD. WIRELESS SET WAS AN OLD ARMY FIELD SET BECAUSE BIG RIG NOT YET INSTALLED. PICKED UP CIVILIAN RADIO EXPERT FROM NORFOLK NAVY YARD TO INSTALL NEW GEAR WHILE UNDER WAY BUT HE WAS NOT SO EXPERT AS THE BIG MOTOR GENERATOR 5 KW RAN AWAY WHEN TESTING IT. OPEN FIELD I THINK. IT WAS LOCATED IN FORECASTLE AND HOW THE MEN RAN WHEN GENERATOR STARTED SCREECHING LIKE A JET UNTIL THE COMMUTATOR FLEW APART. ON SECOND TRIP INSTALLATION WAS COMPLETED AND IT WAS A NICE 5 KW KILBOURNE AND CLARK AND EVERYTHING IN DUPLICATE AS IT WAS NAVAL AUXILIARY SHIP.

JOINED THE NAVY IN 1917. REMEMBER LOUIS GRAY? HE WAS A CHIEF AT WARTIME RADIO INSTRUCTION SCHOOL AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WHERE I ATTENDED FOR A WHILE BEFORE GOING TO LISTENING-IN-STATION AT FNK, THE FESSENDEN STATION ON TOP OF BUSH TERMINAL IN BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN. ALSO RAN THE 10 KW SYNCHRONOUS SPARK TRANSMITTER THERE. FORGOT TO MENTION THAT LOUIS GRAY WAS ONE OF THE CRACK OPERATORS OF THE UNITED FRUIT CO.

IN A LETTER FROM SHERMAN BOOTH W3PL ON AUGUST 1, 1962 SPARK GAP TIMES HE MENTIONS THE EQUIPMENT OF THE UNITED FRUIT CO. SHIPS AS FESSENDEN OR NATIONAL ELECTRIC. I THOUGHT IT WAS TELEFUNKEN EQUIPMENT WITH 500 OR 600 CYCLE NOTES. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO READ THEM THROUGH THE WEST INDIES STATIC.

IN THE EARLY DAYS I USED TO KEEP A CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MY WIRE-LESS ACHIEVEMENTS SO HERE IS WHAT I WROTE DOWN. MAY 18TH, 1908..STARTED WITH SMALL RECEIVING SET. FOUR MONTHS LATER GOT 1 INCH COIL. AERIAL CONSISTED OF 3 WIRES, TWENTY FEET LONG. RECEIVING RECORD; GALILLEE, N.J. SENDING RECORD 1 1/2 MILES (INCIDENTALLY ONE OF THE OPERATORS AT THE GALILLEE STATION WAS ALFRED DORCHESTER, W6AKY WHO IS STILL ACTIVE HERE IN SOUTHERN CALIF. AT AGE OF 85.

1909.. SAME SET. AERIAL 3 WIRES SIXTY FEET LONG. STARTED USING SILICON DETECTOR WHICH IS GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE AUTO-COHERER. RECEIVING RECORD; FIRE ISLAND, N.Y. ABOUT 60 MILES. SENDING RECORD SAME AS 1908.

1910.. SAME SET WITH ADDITION OF A VARIABLE CONDENSER. SAME AERIAL BOUGHT 1/2 K.W. TRANSFORMER COIL AND ELECTROLYTIC INTERRUPTER TO RUN SAME FROM 110 V.A.C. RECEIVING RECORD; CAPE COD AND CAPE HATTERAS. SENDING RECORD; NEW YORK CITY 8 MILES.

1911.. SAME RECEIVING SET BUT USING NEW HOOK-UP WHICH IMPROVES TUNING AND DISTANCE. NOW USE HELIX IN SENDING SET. SENDING RECORD; SAME AS ABOVE. RECEIVING RECORD; CHARLESTON, S.C.

1912.. NOW USE LOOSE COUPLER ON RECEIVING SET WITH AUDION DETECTOR. SAME AERIAL. SENDING SET 1/4 K.W. THORDARSON TRANSFORMER WITH PLATE GLASS CONDENSER AND HELIX. SENDING RECORD; WESTFIELD, N.J. 19 MILES. RECEIVING RECORD; GUANTANAMO, CUBA.

1913.. SAME RECEIVING SET USING GALENA DETECTOR INSTEAD OF AUDION. USE NEW SET OF BRANDES RECEIVERS. AERIAL INCREASED TO 4 WIRES 95 FEET LONG. RECEIVING RECORD; COLON, PANAMA, APPROXIMATELY 1980 MILES. SENDING RECORD; FAR ROCKAWAY ABOUT 25 MILES.

1914..PRACTICALLY THE SAME RECEIVING SET. USING COPPER WIRE IN AERIAL NOW INSTEAD OF ALUMINUM. USING OSCILLATION TRANSFORMER AND 4 SECTIONS OF MURDOCK MOULDED CONDENSER. WIRELESS TELEPHONE SUCCESSFUL ON AUGUST 20TH. VOICE WAS HEARD IN NEWARK, N.J., MIDLAND PARK, N.J. AND NEW YORK CITY. CORNET WAS HEARD IN PORT RICHMOND, STATEN ISLAND, ABOUT 12 MILES AWAY. THIS PHONE WORK WAS WITH TWO CARBON GAPS IN SERIES IN PLACE OF THE REGULAR GAP AND WITH SOME OF THE CONDENSER SECTIONS TAKEN OUT TO REDUCE THE TERRIFIC A.C. NOISE. CARBON MIKE IN GROUND LEAD. SENDING RECORD ON SPARE WAS RED BANK, N.J. RECEIVING RECORD; COLON PANAMA NAX.

1917..USING PARAGON RA6 REGENERATIVE RECEIVING TUNER AND AUDION DETECTOR. 1/2 KW TRANSFORMER. STATION CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY ON ACCOUNT OF WAR.

1919..OPENED STATION AGAIN IN APRIL FOR RECEIVING ONLY. TRANSMITTING ALLOWED IN OCTOBER. RADIOPHONE USING VT2 IN OPERATION ON SEPTEMBER 10TH USING 350 VOLTS ON PLATE FROM MOTOR-GENERATOR. RADIATION .7 AMP. TELEPHONE RECORD 2XX OSSINING, N.Y. AND KEYPORT, N.J. BOTH ABOUT 35 MILES.

## RECOLLECTION'S OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

B. B. JACKSON - W6JF

..CONTINUED..

SPARK RECORD; THROGS NECK, MAINE AND BALTIMORE, MD.

THAT'S AS FAR AS I WENT ON THE RECORD BUT I WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE RID STORY BY GEORGE STERLING WIAE. I WAS IN SIMILAR WORK DURING BOTH WW1 AND WW2. DURING THE FIRST WAR I WAS STATIONED ON THE ROOF OF THE BUSH TERMINAL BUILDING IN BROOKLYN (FESSENDEN STATION FNK) WHERE WE COPIED POZ AND OUI IN GERMANY AND I THINK IT WAS ITO IN ITALY AS WELL AS OTHER STATIONS WE THOUGHT WERE SUSPICIOUS. POZ WOULD START OUT ON ABOUT 16,500 METERS AND THEN WOULD SHIFT TO 6300 METERS WHERE THEY WOULD SEND GERMAN SIGNAL CODE TO THE SUBMARINES AND SPY STATIONS. THE ONLY OTHER HAM I COULD

FIND THAT KNEW THIS CODE WAS CORPORAL HOWARD FOGETTI, WHO WAS MENTIONED IN THE RID STORY IN THE SIGNAL CORPS. HE IS NOW W6WY IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, AND I HEARD HIM BATTING THE BREEZE JUST A FEW DAYS AGO ON 20 CW. HE HAS AN ELECTRONIC KEYSER AND IS ONE OF THE FEW HAMS WHO CAN OPERATE ONE PROPERLY.

I WAS ALSO STATIONED AT FIRE ISLAND, N.Y. DURING FIRST WAR IN CHARGE OF THE RADIO DIRECTION FINDER STATION. I ENCLOSE PICTURE OF APPARATUS AT THE SPARK STATION THERE (NAG). I COULD RAVE ON BUT THINK IT'S ENOUGH FOR PRESENT.

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## A HISTORY OF OLD WLN AND SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF PIONEER WIRELESS

BY: EDWARD E. HAYWARD, W1PH

SUBMITTED BY: WM. B. GOULD, K2NP

LOOKING BACK ON THE EARLY DAYS OF WIRELESS, MANY INTERESTING INCIDENTS OCCURRED PREVIOUS TO THE INSTALLATION OF WLN ON WAVERLY AVENUE IN NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS. RALPH C. EMERY, THE OWNER OF WLN WAS AN EARLY PIONEER IN THE WIRELESS EXPERIMENTAL FIELD, AND A PERSON WHO SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED MORE RECOGNITION FOR HIS WORK IN THE ART. HE WAS THE TREASURER AND MAJORITY STOCK HOLDER IN THE JOHN S. EMERY STEAMSHIP LINES. RALPH'S FATHER, JOHN S. EMERY, CAME FROM SULLIVAN, MAINE, AND AT AN EARLY AGE OWNED A ROW BOAT IN WHICH HE COULD HE COULD EARN A FEW EXTRA PENNIES HAULING FISH, WOOD, AND OTHER COMMODITIES, ON THE MAINE COAST AND RIVERS. THIS WAS AROUND 1863. THROUGH PERSISTENT EFFORTS, HE FINALLY OWNED A SMALL SAIL BOAT, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE AWESOME TASK OF ROWING. RALPH HAD PRESERVED HIS FATHER'S DIARY WHICH HE TREASURED HIGHLY, AND TOOK PLEASURE IN SHOWING US THE DIFFERENT ENTRIES IN IT. "EARNED 8 CENTS FOR ROWING A BARREL OF FISH ACROSS THE BAY FOR MR. JONES. EARNED 12 CENTS FOR ROWING WOOD UP THE RIVER FOR MR. SMITH". MANY SMALL ENTRIES

OF THE SORT SHOWED THE MEAGER RETURN HE RECEIVED FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THOSE DAYS WHEN A FEW PENNIES WERE WORTH SO MUCH. HE KEPT SAVING WHAT HE COULD AND WITH A SMART BUSINESS HEAD, EVEN IN HIS YOUTH, HE EVENTUALLY, OVER THE YEARS, BUILT THE JOHN S. EMERY STEAMSHIP LINES, A LARGE, THRIVING SHIPPING COMPANY WITH MANY SCHOONERS AND STEAMSHIPS, ALWAYS LOADED WITH FREIGHT OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, AND PLYING TO ALL PORTS OF THE WORLD. THEY WOULD TRANSPORT ANY CONCEIVABLE COMMODITY, OF ANY SIZE, TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THEIR OFFICES WERE ON STATE STREET IN BOSTON. HE WOULD TELL ME SO MANY INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THE STEAMSHIP BUSINESS, AND WHAT A JOB IT WAS TO KEEP ALL THE SHIPS IN GOOD REPAIR IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. THEY OF COURSE HAD INTERNATIONAL CREDIT WHICH WAS A NECESSITY IN MANY CASES. WHILE TALKING WITH HIM ONCE AT HIS OFFICE HE RECEIVED A CABLEGRAM WHICH SAID THAT ONE OF THEIR SHIPS HAD CRACKED A PROPELLER SHAFT IN HONG KONG. THIS REPLACEMENT COST TEN THOUSAND. ONE OF THEIR CAPTAINS THEN ENTERED THE OFFICE WHO HAD JUST PULLED IN FROM THE ARGENTINE, WITH A LOAD OF UNCURED HIDES. THE CAPTAIN SAID THAT FRESH AIR SMELLED AWFULLY FUNNY TO HIM AFTER THREE WEEKS ABOARD WITH RAW HIDES, THE FUR WAS

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STILL ON THEM.

WHEN WIRELESS BECAME POSSIBLE, RALPH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES TO BECOME INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THE FIELD. THE EXPERIMENTAL DAYS OF EARLY WIRELESS WERE MOST INTERESTING TO HIM. HOWEVER, HE KEPT IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND THE POSSIBILITIES OF SHIP TO SHORE COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIS MANY SHIPS. STEAMSHIPS AND WIRELESS WERE JUST A NATURAL TIE UP IN THOSE DAYS, SO MUCH TRAVEL WAS DONE BY SHIP. NO GREAT DISTANCES WERE BEING COVERED BY WIRELESS IN 1903 WITH MODERATE POWER, BUT COMMUNICATION UP TO 50 MILES WITH MODERATE POWER COULD BE ATTAINED, AND THIS WAS BETTER THAN NO COMMUNICATION AT ALL.

IN 1903, AN INTERESTING EPISODE IN RALPH'S MANY EXPERIMENTATIONS WAS AT CRYSTAL LAKE IN NEWTON CENTRE, MASS. HE AND SOME OF HIS OTHER EXPERIMENTERS WERE TRANSMITTING ACROSS THE LAKE WITH A HOME MADE SPARK COIL, ENDEAVORING TO FIND OUT WHETHER A COHERER WAS BETTER FOR RECEPTION THAN AN ELECTROLYTIC DETECTOR. THE LAKE WAS ABOUT 1/8 MILE ACROSS. ONE WOULD WAVE HIS ARMS, SO THE OTHERS ACROSS THE LAKE WOULD KNOW THEY WERE TRANSMITTING AND COULD MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THEIR EQUIPMENT AT THE CORRECT TIME. RALPH OWNED TWO NICE HOUSES IN NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND THE CELLAR OF ONE OF THEM WAS HIS FIRST WIRELESS EXPERIMENTAL ROOM. THE STATION CONSISTED OF A LARGE SINGLE SLIDE TUNING COIL, AND AN ELECTROLYTIC DETECTOR. AROUND 1906 THIS EQUIPMENT WAS REPLACED WITH A CLAPP-EASTHAM LOOSE COUPLER AND A HOME MADE CARBORUNDUM DETECTOR. THE TUNING CONDENSERS WERE MADE OF BRASS PLATES RUNNING BETWEEN OTHER BRASS PLATES SET IN GROOVES ON A WOODEN FRAME. THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY WAS AROUND TWO OR THREE THOUSAND MICROMICRO FARADS. THE FIXED CONDENSER WHICH WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY ACROSS THE PHONES WAS MADE BY LONG DISTANCE WIRELESS INSTRUMENT COMPANY, ATLANTIC AVE., BOSTON, MASS. THE TRANSMITTER WAS A TRANSFORMER HE HAD MADE. HE HAD QUITE A MACHINE SHOP, ALSO AS A HOBBY. THE TRANSFORMER WOULD DELIVER A SPARK ABOUT ONE INCH LONG

BETWEEN HIS BRASS ELECTRODE SPARK GAP WITH ALL LEYDEN JAR CONDENSERS ATTACHED. THE HELIX WAS WOUND WITH COPPER RIBBON, AND FEEDING IT INTO HIS FOUR WIRE FLAT TOP WHICH WAS STRUNG FROM THE ROOF, HE COULD BE HEARD BY SOME OTHER EXPERIMENTAL FRIENDS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE AREA. GETTING A GOOD PIECE OF CARBORUNDUM FOR HIS DETECTOR WAS NOW THE BIG PROBLEM. THE FIRST STATION I HEARD WHILE VISITING HIM ONE EVENING WAS BO, FESSENDENS STATION AT BRANT ROCK, MASS., ABOUT 40 AIR MILES AWAY AND USING HIGH POWER. AT A SLIGHTLY LATER DATE BO WAS COMING IN LOUDER THAN EVER AS THEY HAD IMPROVED THEIR AERIAL WHICH WAS RIGHT ON THE SHORE, WITH MANY OF THE WIRES ANCHORED TO LARGE INSULATORS OUT IN THE OCEAN WATER. IT SEEMS THEY WERE RUNNING TESTS WITH THE USS CHESTER AND THE USS BIRMINGHAM. THEY USED A LARGE KEYING WHEEL SENDING NOTHING BUT BO 24 HOURS A DAY, WHICH THE TWO SHIPS LOGGED IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND AT MAXIMUM DISTANCES AT SEA. RALPH LATER TOOK ME TO VISIT THIS FAMOUS OLD STATION. IT HAD THE LARGEST AERIAL I HAD EVER IMAGINED.

IT HAD NOW BECOME TIME FOR RALPH TO ENLARGE HIS STATION, SO HE MOVED EVERYTHING TO THE BARN IN BACK OF HIS OTHER HOUSE ON WAVERLY AVENUE. HE HAD CARPENTERS RIP OUT THREE HORSE STALLS, AND REBUILD THE SPACE INTO ONE LARGE ROOM WITH A LONG OPERATING BENCH AT ONE SIDE. SOME TIME PREVIOUS TO THIS HE HAD BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH MR. MELVILLE EASTHAM, THE GENTLEMAN WHO OWNED AND MANUFACTURED CLAPP-EASTHAM WIRELESS EQUIPMENT. HE PURCHASED A COMPLETE SEVEN KW TRANSMITTER FROM HIM, AND USED BOTH A ROTARY, AND A QUENCHED SPARK GAP WITH THE TRANSMITTER. THE PRICE I BELIEVE WAS A FEW THOUSAND. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME HE HAD ALSO BECOME WELL ACQUAINTED WITH MR. PICKARD WHO WAS THE MANAGER AND DESIGN ENGINEER FOR THE WIRELESS SPECIALTY APPARATUS CO. OF JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS. MR. PICKARD HAD JUST PRODUCED THE PERIKON DETECTOR BY HAVING A PIECE OF COPPER PYRITES TOUCH A PIECE OF ZINCITE. ONE WAS A RED COLOR CRYSTAL AND THE OTHER YELLOW. IT WAS VERY SENSITIVE AND HELD ITS ADJUSTMENT QUITE WELL, COMPARED WITH OTHER CRYSTAL DETECTORS. IT WAS BEAUTIFULLY BUILT ON A BAKELITE BASE WITH NICKEL PLATED FINE SPRING ADJUSTMENT. MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE THOUGH, FOR THE AVERAGE AMATEUR. THE AERIAL PROBLEM WAS SETTLED BY HAVING A LARGE

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SHIPS MAINTAINED SHIPPED OUT FROM BOSTON. IT WAS IN TWO SECTIONS, 100 FEET LONG IN ALL. A TWO HORSE TEAM TOWED IT OUT ON SMALL WOODEN WHEELS BUILT AS DOLLYS DRAGGING ALONG BEHIND THE TEAM. THIS WAS SET INTO CONCRETE IN THE LARGE YARD WITH UMBRELLA AERIAL WIRES COMING DOWN FROM THE TOP AT AN ANGLE IN ALL DIRECTIONS. AROUND 1906 RALPH HAD SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC FRIENDS WHO WOULD COLLECT AT HIS NEW STATION EVENINGS AND TRY DIFFERENT EXPERIMENTS. ONE OF THESE EXPERIMENTS ABOUT THIS TIME, INVOLVED A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK. THEY WERE ENDEAVORING TO MODULATE AN ARC; THEY HAD ME GO HOME TO MY OWN STATION AND SEE IF I COULD RECOGNIZE ANY FORM OF VOICE MODULATION ON THEIR SIGNAL. I COULD HEAR A SPLUTTER, WHICH WAS THEIR VOICES, BUT IT WAS IN NO WAY INTELLIGIBLE. WHAT MONEY AND EFFORTS THEY EXPENDED TO FIND OUT NEW THINGS ABOUT WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS! AFTER ALL THIS WORK THEIR MODULATED ARC WAS FAR FROM SUCCESSFUL.

WITH THE LARGE AERIAL AND THE PERIKON DETECTOR WE COULD NOW HEAR SPARK SIGNALS AS FAR AS PANAMA AT NIGHT AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WORKED HA AT CAPE HATTERAS. UP TO THIS TIME RALPH OPERATED WITH THE CALL RE. HOWEVER, HE NOW HAD FOUND THAT GOOD COMMUNICATIONS COULD BE CARRIED ON WITH HIS SHIPS IF THEY WERE EQUIPPED. LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS HE PROCURED A STATION LICENSE WITH THE CALL WLN.

ONE LUCKY THING HAPPENED AT RALPH'S STATION IN 1908. WHILE TESTING OUT THE FIRST HOME MADE ROTARY SPARK GAP, THE REVOLVING DISK WHEEL CONTAINING THE ELECTRODES FLEW OFF OF THE MOTOR SHAFT AT 12,000 RPM AND PASSED OVER RALPH'S HEAD BEFORE HITTING THE WALL OF THE WIRELESS ROOM.

WLN WAS TUNED UP FOR 60 AMPERES OF RF IN THE AERIAL LEAD IN, AND ON DAMP FOGGY NIGHTS CORONA COULD BE SEEN EMERGING FROM THE TOP OF THE AERIAL INTO THE MIST.

ABOUT 1911 THE JOHN S. EMERY CO. STARTED CONSTRUCTION ON TWO NEW LARGE FREIGHT STEAM BOATS, THE SS ATLANTIC AND THE SS PACIFIC. THESE WERE COMPLETED IN 1913, COSTING ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS

EACH, AND THESE WERE THE FIRST OF THE COMPANIES SHIPS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH WIRELESS. THE ATLANTIC CARRIED MARCONI EQUIPMENT, AND THE PACIFIC, WIRELESS SPECIALTY APPARATUS CO. EQUIPMENT. WITH WLN IN OPERATION, AND THE SHIPS BEGINNING TO BE EQUIPPED, HE MUST OF COURSE HAVE A GOOD LAND STATION OPERATOR AT WLN, SO RALPH WAS FORTUNATE IN OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF ARTHUR STOCKELBURG, NOW WISS, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AN OPERATOR AT SEVERAL COASTAL STATIONS, AND ON SEVERAL SHIPS. ARTHUR REMAINED THERE AS OPERATOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS, I BELIEVE UNTIL ABOUT 1917. GEORGE HOWARD OLD WIBU, NOW DECEASED, WAS THE FIRST OPERATOR OF THE SS ATLANTIC. AT THIS TIME WORLD WAR I BROKE OUT AND I WENT IN THE NAVY AND WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH RALPH FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

MANY HUMDROUS THINGS OF COURSE HAPPENED AROUND THE OLD STATION, MANY OF THEM I AM SURE ARTHUR WOULD REMEMBER. THE HEATING SYSTEM WAS NOT THE BEST IN THOSE DAYS, AND ON COLD NIGHTS, RALPH WHILE SITTING AT THE STATION LISTENING WORE THE TOP OF A DERBY HAT WITH THE BRIM CUT OFF SO THE PHONES WOULD FIT AND HIS HEAD WOULD STILL BE WARM.

DURING 1905 ALONG WITH HIS WIRELESS HOBBY, HE AND ANOTHER MECHANICALLY MINDED MAN BUILT A COMPLETE STEAM AUTOMOBILE ALONG THE LINES OF THE OLD STANLEY STEAMER. IT ACTUALLY OPERATED O.K. AND CAUSED QUITE A LOT OF EXCITEMENT IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. ONE OF THE FIRST STATIONS RALPH WORKED WITH HIS NEW SET UP WAS OLD WLC AT NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, THE SCOTT WRECKING CO., WHO COMMUNICATED WITH THEIR SEVERAL TUG BOATS. I BELIEVE THIS WAS THE START OF THE PRESENT MERRITT CHAPMAN & SCOTT.

AROUND 1908 RALPH TOOK ME ABOARD THE SS MEGANTIC, A BRITISH WHITE STAR LINE SHIP. RALPH BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN THE ENGLISH MAGNETIC DETECTOR IN THE WIRELESS ROOM. THE ENGLISH OPERATOR EXPLAINED TO US HOW THE DETECTOR OPERATED, A PIECE OF TUNGSTON WIRE TRAVELING ON TWO END ROLLERS CONTINUALLY PASSED THROUGH THE TWO POLES OF A STATIONARY MAGNET MOUNTED ON THE FRONT OF THE RECEIVER CABINET. THE MAGNETIC ACTION BETWEEN THE MAGNET POLES AND THE MOVING WIRE WOULD RECTIFY. IT WAS NOT AS SENSITIVE AS CARBORUNDUM BUT OF COURSE WOULD NOT GO OUT OF ADJUSTMENT, WHICH WAS A PROBLEM IN THOSE EARLY DAYS. RALPH AND SOME OF HIS

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FRIENDS BUILT ONE AND IT WAS FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL, BUT NOT IN A CLASS WITH THE PERIKON DETECTOR FOR SENSITIVITY. IN 1913 WHEN THE SS ATLANTIC AND SS PACIFIC WERE PUT IN COMMISSION I WAS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN MARCONI COMPANY ON SHIPS OUT OF BOSTON. OUR SHIP BEING TIED UP FOR REPAIRS AT THE TIME, TOM STEVENS HAD ME GO TO WORK WITH THE MARCONI INSTALLATION MEN ON THE SS ATLANTIC, THEN TIED UP AT LEWIS WHARF. AN EXPERIENCE I WILL NEVER FORGET WAS BEING HOISTED TO THE MAST HEAD IN A BOATSWAINS CHAIR TO INSTALL THE AERIAL BLOCK AND TACKLE.

DURING 1910 GLACE BAY HAD INSTALLED A LOW FREQUENCY STATION OPERATING WITH CONSIDERABLE POWER ON A WAVE LENGTH OF ABOUT 20,000 METERS. RALPH'S MACHINE SHOP BECAME A VERY POPULAR PLACE ABOUT THIS TIME. HE SET ONE OF HIS LATHES UP FOR WINDING THE ENORMOUS COILS THAT WERE NECESSARY TO TUNE TO THIS VERY LONG WAVE LENGTH. THE COIL FORMS WERE SOME 10 INCHES IN DIAMETER, AND ABOUT 2 FEET IN LENGTH, AND OF COURSE CONTAINED SEVERAL HUNDRED TURNS OF #22 WIRE. WINDING THESE BY HAND WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST ABOUT IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE EVENTUALLY RECEIVED VERY GOOD SIGNALS ON THEM. HE WOUND SOME TWENTY OR MORE OF THESE COILS FOR THE DIFFERENT EXPERIMENTERS IN THE BOSTON AREA.

IN APRIL OF 1912 WHEN NEWS OF THE TITANIC DISASTER REACHED SHORE, RALPH'S WLN STATION REMAINED OPEN AROUND THE CLOCK FOR SEVERAL DAYS, WHILE SEVERAL OF US STAYED UP DURING THE NIGHTS, CONTINUALLY TUNING THE LARGE VARIABLE CONDENSERS, AND SLIDING THE SLIDERS BACK AND FORTH ON THE LOOSE COUPLER, IN ORDER TO HEAR ANY FAINT BIT TRANSMITTED FROM THE SS CARPATHIA OR OTHER RESCUE SHIPS.

SOME OF THE VERY EARLY WIRELESS STATIONS I HEARD RALPH COMMUNICATE WITH AS RE, WERE PG THE BOSTON NAVY YARD, PH AT HIGHLAND LIGHT AT NORTH TRURO ON CAPE COD, WQ AT EASTPORT, MAINE, THE REVENUE CUTTERS GRESHAM AND ANDROSCOGGIN, AND SEVERAL OTHERS. MOST OF THESE WERE PRETTY GOOD DX FOR THE VERY EARLY SPARK DAYS, EVEN BEFORE THE ROTARY SPARK GAPS WERE USED, AS THE STRAIGHT TWO ELECTRODE GAP GAVE ONLY A VERY

LOW ROUGH NOTE, VERY DIFFICULT AT TIMES TO DISTINGUISH FROM THE STATIC. THE FIRST AMATEUR OR EXPERIMENTAL STATION IN THE BOSTON AREA TO USE A ROTARY GAP WAS EARL OVINGTON, WHO SIGNED ONLY THE LETTER O FOR HIS CALL. WE THOUGHT AT THE TIME IT WAS UNUSUAL TO HEAR A HIGH PITCHED NOTE, AND BECAME INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW HE PRODUCED IT. EARL ALSO WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST WIRELESS MEN TO BECOME INTERESTED IN AVIATION AS A HOBBY. HE BUILT A FABRICATED PLANE AND MADE SOME EXPERIMENTAL LOW FLIGHTS AS EARLY AS 1906. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE HE WOULD RISK HIS NECK TO FLY SUCH A HOME-MADE CRATE. HE FLEW IN MANY OF THE EARLY AVIATION MEETS AROUND NEW ENGLAND.

THE MARCONI CO. MADE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN SPARK TRANSMITTERS IN 1913. INSTEAD OF THE D C MOTOR, DRIVING A 60 CYCLE GENERATOR, THEY USED A 240 CYCLE GENERATOR WITH THE ROTATING SPARK DISK MOUNTED ON THE END OF THE GENERATOR SHAFT. THE STATIONARY SPARKING POINTS WERE ON A SWIVEL, AND COULD BE ADJUSTED TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH THE GENERATOR OUTPUT, THEREBY PRODUCING A 240 CYCLE SYNCHRONOUS NOTE, WHICH WAS PLEASING TO COPY THROUGH INTERFERENCE. THE SS BAY STATE (KRE) WAS THE FIRST BOSTON SHIP TO HAVE THIS EQUIPMENT. I WAS WORKING ON HER AT THE TIME, AND IT WAS A PLEASURE TO OPERATE THIS NEW EQUIPMENT. I RECEIVED A CARD FROM AN OPERATOR ON A SHIP IN THE GULF OF MEXICO SAYING HE HAD COPIED OUR SHIP, WHICH WAS A PRETTY GOOD PIECE OF DX FOR MEDIUM POWER SPARK. HOWEVER, ABOUT THIS TIME DEFOREST HAD GOT AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE MARCONI CO. FOR ROTARY GAP PATENT INFRINGEMENT, AND UNTIL THE LITIGATION WAS SETTLED IN COURT, ALL MARCONI EQUIPPED SHIPS HAD TO GO BACK TO A STRAIGHT GAP. IT WAS A YEAR OR MORE BEFORE WE COULD AGAIN USE ROTARY GAPS. THE 240 CYCLE SET WAS CALLED THE "PIG SET" DUE TO THE SHAPE OF THE MOTOR GENERATOR. IT WAS MODEL 240D. IMPROVEMENTS ON RECEIVING EQUIPMENT WERE VERY SLOW AT THIS TIME. CARBORUNDUM CONTINUED TO BE THE MOST SERVICEABLE RECEIVING CRYSTAL BUT BY NO MEANS THE MOST SENSITIVE. IT WAS STILL NECESSARY TO TURN OFF THE MOTOR GENERATOR WHEN RECEIVING, AND START IT UP TO TRANSMIT, THIS WAS DONE BY A LARGE, SEVERAL POINT STARTING BOX, WHICH WAS A TAPPED HEAVY DUTY RHEOSTAT. THE FIRST POINT

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ON BOXES ON MANY SHIPS WAS PRETTY WELL WORN FROM ARCING, AS OPERATORS WOULD PULL AN ARC FROM THE ARM TO THE FIRST POINT, TO LIGHT A TOOTH PICK OR SMALL PIECE OF PAPER IN ORDER TO LIGHT THEIR CIGARETTES WHEN OUT OF MATCHES. WARNINGS FROM THE HEAD OFFICE DID NOT SEEM TO ERASE THIS PRACTICE.

THE MARCONI CO. IN ITS EARLIEST BEGINNING, REALIZED THAT IF THE ENGINE ROOM ON SHIPBOARD WAS FLOODED, THE DC GENERATORS WOULD NOT FUNCTION, AND THE WIRELESS ROOM WOULD BE INOPERATIVE. THEY THEREFORE INSTALLED A COMPLETE AUXILIARY TEN INCH SPARK COIL TRANSMITTER ON ALL SHIPS THEY HAD CONTACTS WITH. THIS WAS A HUGE ROUND COIL WITH A SPARK GAP MOUNTED DIRECTLY ON ITS SECONDARY TERMINALS. THE PRIMARY WAS EXCITED BY A LARGE BANK OF EDISON STORAGE BATTERIES. THE CONDENSERS WERE LARGE LEYDEN JARS WITH TIN FOIL GLUED ON THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE. THESE WERE 18 INCHES HIGH AND 6 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND MOUNTED IN A WOODEN RACK, 6 JARS TO A RACK. TOGETHER WITH THE BANK OF 12 EDISON BATTERIES IT TOOK UP A GREAT DEAL OF SPACE. ONLY A STRAIGHT STATIONARY SPARK GAP WAS USED, BUT THE AUXILIARY SET COULD STILL BE KEPT ON THE AIR WITH THE OPERATOR WAIST HIGH IN WATER. FOR SAFETY PURPOSES THE MARCONI ROOM WAS LOCATED ON THE HURRICANE DECK WHENEVER POSSIBLE. KEYING WAS DONE IN THE PRIMARY CIRCUIT. UP TO 2 KW INPUT, WHICH WAS THE NORMAL POWER OF MOST SHIP INSTALLATIONS, A HEAVY DUTY HAND KEY WAS USED. ON HIGHER POWER SPARK INSTALLATIONS A HEAVY DUTY RELAY WAS OPERATED FROM A SMALLER HAND KEY. A LARGE AMOUNT OF CURRENT OF COURSE APPEARED AT THE KEYING CONTACTS. ONE OF THE OPERATORS AT HA CAPE HATTERAS, SENT RALPH A SET OF USED CONTACTS FROM THEIR KEYING RELAY AFTER 50 HOURS OF USE. THEY WERE  $1\frac{1}{2}$  INCHES IN DIAMETER AND  $\frac{1}{2}$  INCH THICK, AND HAD BEEN BURNED TO HALF THEIR ORIGINAL SIZE AND VERY UNEVENLY. HA'S POWER AT THIS TIME WAS 25 KW. RALPH KEPT THESE CONTACTS AS AN ANTIQUE.

DEFORREST BROUGHT OUT THE FIRST PRACTICAL AUDION TUBE WITH A CONTROL GRID IN 1914, BUT IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE THEY WERE PUT INTO PRACTICAL OPERATION ON THE COMMERCIAL

RECEIVERS. WBF, THEN THE BOSTON MARCONI STATION, HAD PUT INTO USE A FLEMING VALVE, AN ENGLISH TWO ELEMENT VACUUM TUBE, WITH RECTIFYING PROPERTIES, BUT OF COURSE INCAPABLE OF AMPLIFICATION. THIS HOWEVER, WOULD REMAIN IN ADJUSTMENT CONSTANTLY AND WAS CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE CARBORUNDUM CRYSTAL.

THE ORIGINAL MARCONI CO. SHIPBOARD RECEIVER WAS THE TYPE D, SIMPLY A DOUBLE SLIDE TUNING COIL MOUNTED IN A WOODEN CABINET WITH THE SLIDERS STICKING OUT. THE CARBORUNDUM DETECTOR WAS MOUNTED ON TOP WITH A VARIABLE CONDENSER INSIDE AND THE TUNING KNOB STICKING OUT THE TOP.

THEY INAUGURATED A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RECEIVERS IN 1912, BY REPLACING THE TUNING COIL WITH A LOOSE COUPLER MOUNTED ON THE CABINET TOP. THIS GAVE VARIABLE COUPLING BETWEEN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CIRCUITS, AND DID ADD SLIGHTLY TO THE SELECTIVITY, IF SUCH A WORD COULD BE APPLIED TO EQUIPMENT OF THAT ERA. THIS WAS THE TYPE E RECEIVER. ABOUT THIS TIME THEY ALSO BROUGHT OUT THE MODEL 240 A MORE RUGGED TYPE RECEIVER. THE COUPLING WAS NOT VARIABLE, BUT BOTH THE PRIMARY AND THE SECONDARY COILS HAD TAP SWITCHES ON THE CABINET FRONT PANEL AND THE VARIABLE CONDENSERS HAD BEEN SET IN HEAVY BRASS CASES MOUNTED ON TOP. THIS TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION WAS TO GUARD AGAINST CORROSION CAUSED BY SALT AIR MOISTURE ON SHIPBOARD.

MOST OF OUR NAVY SHIPS IN THE EARLY SPARK ERA WERE EQUIPPED WITH GERMAN TELEFUNKEN GEAR. TELEFUNKEN SEEMED TO BE SEVERAL STEPS AHEAD IN COMPACT DESIGN AND DURABILITY. THEIR LARGE RECEIVING INDUCTANCES HAD HAND PLUGS SIMILAR TO THE OLD SWITCH BOARDS. THE TELEFUNKEN PHONES, INSTEAD OF HAVING METAL HEAD BANDS, HAD A LEATHER STRAP WHICH WENT OVER THE HEAD AND PULLED UP UNDER THE CHIN. THIS WAS NOT TOO COMFORTABLE IN HOT WEATHER.

THE OPERATING ABILITY OF SOME OF THOSE EARLY WIRELESS MEN AMAZED ME. DAN DECOSTA AT WBF DURING THE VERY EARLY ERA, WOULD WORK A SHIP VIA WIRELESS, AND AT THE SAME TIME COPY THE MORSE SOUNDER INTO 'B', THE MAIN BOSTON WIRE STATION. BOTH CONTINENTAL AND MORSE AT THE SAME TIME! I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM OLD DAN. THIS MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS ALONG BEST WISHES TO MANY OF THE OLD EARLY ERA OPERATORS, SOME OF WHOM I AM SURE ARE STILL

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AROUND. MCKENZIE OF THE OLD SS CITY OF ATLANTA AND SWAN ISLAND, FRANK PITTS OF THE SS BUNKER HILL, BLACKIE OF THE SS NACOOCHIE, SWEAT OF THE SS RANSOM B. FULLER, FRANK JUSTICE AND JOHNNY WALKER OF THE SS EVANGELINE, GUY ENTWISTLE OF THE SS CALVIN AUSTIN, WALTER BUTTERWORTH OF WBF, BRACKETT OF THE SS CITY OF ROCKLAND, CRIB BROWN OF THE SS CITY OF BANGOR, HARRY C. GAWLER, BOSTON RADIO INSPECTOR, AND OTHERS, MANY THAT I COULD MENTION HAVE PASSED ON! I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST 3570 KC AS A MEETING PLACE ON THE 80 METER AMATEUR CW BAND FOR ANY OF THESE OLD FELLOWS WHO MAY BE ON THE AIR AS HAMS. IF NOT NOW ACTIVE, WHY NOT HOOK UP A 50 WATT AND GET BACK ON. ITS LOTS OF FUN.

RALPH'S MIND SEEMED TO BE SATURATED WITH NEW MECHANICAL CONTRAPTIONS IN ADDITION TO WIRELESS AFFAIRS. HE WORKED STRENUOUSLY FOR A YEAR OR MORE BUILDING A MECHANICAL NUT CRACKER, ON WHICH HE ALSO RECEIVED A PATENT. HIS EXPERIMENTAL COSTS MUST HAVE BEEN A FEW THOUSAND. THIS MACHINE WOULD CRACK WALNUTS, AND OTHER NUTS OF SIMILAR SIZE, AND SEPARATE THE SHELLS FROM THE MEAT. THE NUTS WERE SHOVELLED INTO AN INPUT SCOOP, AND WERE TO COME OUT CLEANLY SHELLED. IT WAS A LARGE ROUND MACHINE WITH SEVERAL SMALL CRACKING HAMMERS, AND SEPARATORS. SOME OF THE FIRST RUNS ON THE MACHINE HAD THE PLACE COVERED WITH NUT SHELLS AND MEAT, NEITHER BEING SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER, BUT IN ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, AND A FEW IMPROVEMENTS IT WORKED QUITE WELL. HOWEVER, HE EVENTUALLY HAD TO CHALK IT

UP AS ANOTHER NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL INVENTION, AFTER SPENDING ALL THAT MONEY AND TIME. A FEW OF THEM WERE SOLD, BUT NOT VERY MANY.

WHILE OPERATING HIS STATION ONE EVENING, MY ATTENTION WAS DISTRACTED BY A NOISE. HE HAD BEEN WORKING QUITE STRENUOUSLY IN THE MACHINE SHOP A FEW EVENINGS. IT SEEMS SOME ONE HAD WANTED 50,000 SMALL BRASS PINS MADE. HE HAD THE MILLING MACHINE SET UP TO TURN THEM OUT, AND HAD TURNED IT ON, AND GONE IN THE HOUSE FOR A CUP OF COFFEE. ONE OF THE STOPS WAS NOT FUNCTIONING, AND THE SHOP WAS A SHOWER OF BRASS PINS, UNTIL I COULD SHUT OFF THE MAIN SWITCH. IN 1916 HE BUILT A LONG WAVE ARC RECEIVER AND WE ENJOYED COPYING POZ, NAUEN, GERMANY AND NANTES, FRANCE ON 15,000 METERS. THEY WERE EXACTLY THE SAME SIGNAL STRENGTH THE WHOLE 24 HOURS OF THE DAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST REAL DX WE HAD EVER HEARD.

AS I WAS THE KID WHO ALWAYS DID THE ERRANDS FOR RALPH AND HIS FRIENDS ON MY BICYCLE, HE INCLUDED ME ON A MOST INTERESTING TRIP IN 1905. THE SEVEN MASTED SCHOONER THOMAS W. LAWSON WAS BEING LAUNCHED AT THE FORD RIVER SHIP YARDS, AND RALPH HAD CHARTERED A TUG BOAT TO TAKE HIS FRIENDS TO THE LAUNCHING. THIS WAS THE ONLY SEVEN MASTED SCHOONER EVER BUILT IN THE WORLD, AND THE LARGEST. IT WAS LARGER THAN MOST STEAM SHIPS OF THAT ERA. WHAT A HUGE SHIP IT WAS TO BE DRIVEN BY SAIL ONLY. I BELIEVE ITS DISPLACEMENT WAS APPROXIMATELY 20,000 TONS, AND WAS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARRYING FREIGHT. A FEW YEARS LATER SHE WAS THE VICTIM OF A DISASTER AND WENT TO THE BOTTOM. SHE DID NOT CARRY WIRELESS EQUIPMENT.

RALPH EMERY HAS NOT BEEN WITH US FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW BUT HE AND HIS PIONEERING SPIRIT IS STILL REMEMBERED BY THOSE OF US WHO KNEW HIM.

## THE PHANTOM SIGNALS

BY: ALBERT E. SONN - W2GC

I HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, N.Y.C., IN THE EARLY 1918'S AND IT WAS MY MISSION TO TRY AND TRACK DOWN MYSTERIOUS WIRELESS SIGNALS THAT WERE REPORTED BY SERIOUS MINDED PUBLIC CITIZENS. IT WAS EVERYBODY'S DUTY TO REPORT TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS ANYTHING THAT SEEMED TO BE OUT OF ORDER OR UNWARLIKE ACTIONS. EVERYBODY

AND HIS LITTLE BROTHER HAD THE PHONES TO ARMY HEADQUARTERS BUZZING AND MANY OF THE REPORTED INCIDENTS WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND WERE WRITTEN OFF THE BOOKS.

ONE REPORT CAME THAT IN A LARGE HOTEL SOMEONE WAS SENDING SPARK SOUNDING SIGNALS WHICH EVEN THE HOTEL DETECTIVES COULD NOT TRACE. JUST THE SAME THEY HEARD HISSES THAT SOUNDED JUST LIKE SOMEONE SENDING WITH A KEY. ARMY INTELLIGENCE

## THE PHANTOM SIGNALS By: ALBERT E. SONN - W2GC

ASSIGNED ME TO THE HOTEL DE ALLIES ON CENTRAL PARK, WEST TO LOOK FOR TROUBLE. I WAS TO WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND SO WERE MY ASSISTANT WIRELESS MEN, THREE OF THEM WERE TAKEN FROM OUR STATION PERSONNEL AT FORT TOTTEN, LONG ISLAND. WE ARRIVED THERE ON A COLD DECEMBER DAY ABOUT 1 P.M. WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE TOP FLOOR IN A SUITE OF ROOMS MEANT FOR HONEY-MOONERS. IT WAS A PLEASANT SET UP WITH WINDOWS LOOKING IN EVERY DIRECTION AND THERE WAS A STAIRWAY TO THE ROOF JUST IN CASE SOMEONE TRIED TO MAKE AN ESCAPE.

FINALLY SETTLING DOWN FOR WORK WITH A PORTABLE CRYSTAL SET WE HAD TWO MEN WITH EARPHONES LISTEN. ALL WAS QUIET EXCEPT A FEW SIGNALS NOW AND THEN FROM BOATS DOCKING IN THE LOWER MANHATTAN HUDSON RIVER PORTS. THEY WERE A FEW THE "SUBS" DIDN'T SINK AND THEY MADE THE RUN TO NEW YORK CITY SAFE AND CLEAR. HOWEVER, WE COPIED EVERYTHING JUST IN CASE WE WOULD PICK UP SOME CODED TRAFFIC FROM THE SUB-PACK OFF OUR COAST.

BY SIX O'CLOCK ALL OF US WERE STARVED AND I, TOP MAN, ORDERED SOME FOOD. SHORTLY IT CAME UP ON A CART AND WE DINED ON NEAR-BEER AND COLD ROAST TURKEY. THERE WAS SOME LEFT OVER WHICH THE HOTEL MEN CARTED OFF AFTER MOST OF US WERE READY FOR BED. AND WHAT BEDS..ONE FOR A BRIDE AND GROOM IN THE NICEST ROOM OF THE SUITE. BUT BEDS DON'T TALK, SO WE OCCUPIED THE REAL COMFORTABLE ONES.

OUR TWO MEN ASSIGNED TO THE NIGHT TRICK LISTENED IN UNTIL THEY WERE TOO SLEEPY TO HOLD UP THEIR HEADS ANY LONGER. I GUESS THEY FELL ASLEEP. I KNOW I DID. IT WAS THIS WAY FOR THREE DAYS..SOMEONE HAD GOTTEN WISE TO OUR MISSION THERE, WE THOUGHT, AND WERE READY TO CALL IT QUITS AND GO BACK TO THE FORT. HOWEVER, ON THE THIRD DAY AFTER LIVING THE LIFE OF REILLY, SOMETHING HAPPENED. ONE OF THE HOUSE DETECTIVES, WHO WAS KEEPING A CLOSE EAR TO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT SEEM STRANGE, KNOCKED ON OUR DOOR. HE STEPPED IN AND SAID THAT A RESIDENT OF ROOM 202 WAS HEARING THINGS AND HE WAS SURE IT WAS SOMEONE SENDING CODE AS IT SEEMED TO COME FROM NEXT DOOR TO HIS ROOM. EVERY MORNING HE HEARD THESE STRANGE SIGNALS. THERE WAS A GERMAN AND HIS WIFE LIVING THERE

AND THEY KEPT BY THEMSELVES AND HAD NO FRIENDS OR CALLERS. THAT WAS IT, THE DETECTIVE WAS SURE HE HAD SOMETHING OF IMPORTANCE. NOT BEING FAMILIAR WITH THE CODE HE COULD NOT PICK OUT ANY LETTERS.

JOE BURNS WAS READY FOR THE KILL. I ESCORTED HIM OUT INTO THE HALL AND DOWN THE ELEVATOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR AND TO ROOM 202. WE LISTENED OUTSIDE THE DOOR AT 6 A.M. SURE ENOUGH THERE WERE SIGNALS JUST LIKE SOME UNHEARD OF CODE. WE LISTENED CLOSELY BUT THERE WAS NOTHING COMING OVER THAT WE COULD DECIPHER. WE CALLED UP STAIRS BUT THE MEN ON DUTY DID NOT HEAR ANYTHING WHILE WE COULD HEAR SOMETHING. PERHAPS ON ANOTHER HIGHER WAVE LENGTH, WE THOUGHT, BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE LONGER ANTENNAES. I HAD BEEN UP ON THE HOTEL ROOF THE NIGHT BEFORE WITH A FLASHLIGHT AND A "ARMY FORTY-FIVE" ATTACHED TO MY HOLSTER HANGING ON MY BELT.

WE COULDN'T LET THIS ONE GET OUT OF HAND. SURELY NOT WHEN WE WOULD BE IN LINE FOR A HERO'S MEDAL. WE MUST PUT OUR MINDS TO WORK AND TRICK THE GERMANS TALKING TO THEIR SUBS.

SO THE HOUSE DETECTIVE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND A MAN'S VOICE IN GERMAN CAME BACK TO US, "VAS IST" OR SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT. "GO AWAY" I AM TRYING TO SLEEP AS I HAD A BAD NIGHT. FINALLY HE CAME TO THE DOOR IN HIS BATH-ROBE AND WANTED TO KNOW THAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. HIS WIFE WOKE UP TOO AND MUTTERED SOMETHING IN GERMAN NO BODY COULD DECIPHER. "ARE YOU OPERATING A WIRELESS SET IN HERE?" WE PUT IT FRANKLY. HE REPLIED: "I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WIRELESS" I COULD HEAR SOMETHING THAT RESEMBLED A SPARK IN THE BACKGROUND. WE SEARCHED HIS OTHER ROOMS BUT NOTHING LIKE A WIRELESS SET WAS VISIBLE. SEARCHING IN CLOSETS AND UNDER BEDS THERE WAS NOTHING EXCEPT THAT PHANTOM SIGNAL COULD BE HEARD. SOON THERE WAS SILENCE, NOT A PEEP FROM ANYWHERE, SUDDENLY IT STARTED UP AGAIN. IT WAS SOMEWHERE HIDDEN IN THAT APARTMENT WE WERE SURE. BUT TO FIND IT - THAT WAS THE PROBLEM. I WENT OVER NEAR THE WINDOW, THE CODE SEEMED TO GET LOUDER. I WAS ON THE SCENT. I SURE WAS, THERE WAS THAT DARNED STEAM RADIATOR HISSING AWAY TO TELL US THAT THE STEAM WAS COMING UP. BY GOLLY WE FOUND IT..A HISSING RADIATOR VALVE. SOMETHING THAT WOULD CALL OUT ARMY INTELLIGENCE TO TRACK DOWN A HIDDEN WIRELESS STATION IN A BIG HOTEL ROOM FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE SUBS OFF OUR COAST? WE WERE IN AN EMBARRASING SITUATION IN REPORTING THIS INCIDENT, BUT MR. PUBLIC DID HIS DUTY AS A GOOD CITIZEN. THE MEALS ON THE HOUSE WERE EXCELLENT AND SO WERE THE ACCOMMODATI

## NAZI SPIES OPERATE IN AFRICA CHAPTER V OF THE R.I.D. STORY BY: GEORGE STERLING WIAE

THE STORY OF RID'S DETECTION OF NAZI ESPIONAGE RADIO STATIONS IN AFRICA IS ONE OF THE MOST INTRIGUING OPERATIONS THE DIVISION ENGAGED IN.

RID WAS, AS FAR AS IT COULD BE DETERMINED, THE FIRST ORGANIZATION TO DETECT THE OPERATION OF THE NAZI SPY RINGS IN THIS CONTINENT, MOSTLY ALONG THE WESTERN COAST. WHEN WE REPORTED THROUGH CHANNELS TO OUR ENGLISH ALLIES HOW THE GERMAN AGENTS WERE REPORTING THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF BRITISH NAVAL AND MERCHANT SHIPS, THE COUNTERPART OF RID IN ENGLAND, THE RADIO SECURITY SERVICE OF THE SIGNAL CORPS REQUESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULAR LIASON AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS OF THE NAZIS.

GERMAN SECRET AGENTS LIKE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WERE LANDED BY SUBMARINE AND SET UP SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTERS IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES AND COLONIES OF AFRICA. THEY REPORTED TO GERMANY BY SHORTWAVE RADIO, CONVOY ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AND MOVEMENTS OF ALLIED TROOPS, SUPPLIES AND AIRCRAFT. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND HAS WORKED THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES IN LISBON, MADRID, ROME AND PARIS SO THAT THE OSTENSIBLE CONTROL POINT WOULD APPEAR TO BE OUTSIDE GERMANY. ACTUALLY, OF COURSE, THE INTERMEDIARIES OR SUBORDINATES IN THESE NON-GERMAN CITIES WERE IN THE PAY OF THE GERMAN SECRET SERVICE AND IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH BERLIN BY CLANDESTINE RADIO AND BY SPECIAL LANDLINE CIRCUITS AND COURIERS.

AT VARIOUS TIMES, CLANDESTINE RADIO TRANSMITTERS HAD BEEN DETECTED BY RID IN THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN COLONIES OF MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, AND GUINEA.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE AFRICAN CASES REVOLVED ABOUT A MYSTERIOUS CONTROL IN LISBON, PORTUGAL, WHICH WAS IN DAILY COMMUNICATION WITH SPIES IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

AFTER RID HAD PERFECTED THE TECHNIQUE OF DETECTING, IDENTIFYING AND LOCATING THE VARIOUS CLANDESTINE STATIONS OF THE

NAZI SPY SYSTEM WHICH REPORTED TO THE CONTROL STATIONS IN GERMANY, A NEW NET WORKING OUT OF LISBON, PORTUGAL WAS DISCOVERED. IT HAPPENED IN THIS WAY:

IN THE FALL OF 1941, SEPT. 3RD TO BE EXACT. W. M. NICHOLSON, RADIO OPERATOR STATIONED AT RID UNIT SA-6, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, WHILE CRUISING THE RADIO SPECTRUM, INTERCEPTED THE SIGNALS OF A STATION SENDING THE CALL "UU2". SINCE THE CALL DID NOT CONFORM TO THE TYPE OF CALLS EMPLOYED BY COMMERCIAL OR AUTHORIZED CIRCUITS, AND SINCE THE PROCEDURE WAS OF AN UNUSUAL NATURE, UU2 WAS MADE THE SUBJECT OF AN RID CASE. PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED TO THE UNITS ASSIGNED THE CASE, TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ANSWERING STATION. ON OCTOBER 9, 1941, A STATION SIGNING THE CALL CNA WAS INTERCEPTED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY RID MEN, FRANK TOTH AT PITTSBURGH, AND WILLIAM GOLDBERG, AT THE RID UNIT IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO. PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THIS FIRST CONTACT, THE CONTROL STATION (UU2) HAD BEEN CALLING ALMOST NIGHTLY IN HOPES OF CONTACTING ITS "OUT" STATION CNA.

ON OCTOBER 13, 1941, A FEW DAYS AFTER THE FIRST CONTACT MADE BY UU2, ANOTHER STATION WAS INTERCEPTED USING SIMILAR PROCEDURES, BUT SIGNING THE CALL "BX7". IT WAS NOT LONG UNTIL OBSERVATIONS AND BEARINGS PROVED CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE CALLS "UU2" AND "BX7" WERE ORIGINATING FROM THE SAME CONTROL STATION IN LISBON. INSTRUCTIONS WERE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO SEARCH DILIGENTLY FOR THE ANSWERING STATION, AND ON OCTOBER 20, 1941, AN INTERCEPT OF A STATION SIGNING THE CALL NPD AND IN COMMUNICATION WITH BX7 WAS REPORTED BY TOM CANE WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE RID UNIT IN RHODE ISLAND.

BEARINGS BY RID DIRECTION FINDERS AT VARIOUS STATIONS SOON DETERMINED THAT CNA WHICH WAS IN COMMUNICATION WITH UU2 WAS LOCATED IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NPD WHO COMMUNICATED WITH BXL THE OTHER "OUT" STATION WAS LOCATED IN PORTUGUESE, WEST AFRICA. IN THE COURSE OF WORKING ON

## NAZI SPIES OPERATE IN AFRICA

### CHAPTER V OF THE R.I.D. STORY

BY: GEORGE STERLING WIAE

....CONTINUED,....

THIS TRAFFIC IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS DEFINITELY ESPIONAGE TRAFFIC MY MEN DISCOVERED HOW TO BREAK THE CIPHER. WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE FBI WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN FURNISHED WITH COPIES OF CODED TEXTS AND GAVE THEM THE KEY FOR BREAKING IT.

THEREUPON THE FBI AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES EVIDENCED KEEN INTEREST IN THIS CIRCUIT, THE REASON FOR WHICH BECOMES OBVIOUS FROM THE FOLLOWING DECIPHERED MESSAGES.

THESE MESSAGES WERE IN TRANSPOSITION CIPHER, BUT PROVED TO BE IN THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE. THE FIRST MESSAGE TO LISBON WE INTERCEPTED REPORTED THAT THE U.S.S. IDAHO WAS AT THE PORT OF DORBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.

I IMMEDIATELY MADE THIS KNOWN TO THE DIRECTOR OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS. HE WAS ASTONISHED THAT WE WERE SO PROFICIENT IN OUR LONG RANGE BATTLE WITH THE NAZI SPY SYSTEM AND HE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF NAZI ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS THAT WERE GOING ON IN AFRICA.

LATER MESSAGES FROM THE NAZI SPY IN WEST AFRICA INDICATED HE PICKED UP A LOT OF INFORMATION BY TRIPS INTO BRITISH COLONIES.

AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF A PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE CODE MESSAGE WHICH WAS SENT TO BX7 IN LISBON, PORTUGAL FROM WEST AFRICA NPD VIA CLANDESTINE RADIO ON DECEMBER 4, 1941, IS AS FOLLOWS:

"ARMANDO REPORTS THAT THE ENGLISH CONSUL RECEIVED A LONG ENCIPHERED TELEGRAM RELATIVE TO ENDORCING A STRICT VIGILANCE AGAINST ESPIONAGE, OFFICIALS, CLAIMED ENGLISH STILL COMMAND CAPE VERDE SUBMARINE CABLE THERE MANY MEN GO TO FREETOWN OWING TO APPROACH OF TEN CONVOY SHIPS, LARGE TROOPS, AMMUNITION AND TANKS. HOWEVER, INFORMER DOES NOT KNOW IF THEY REMAIN AT LAGOS OR FREETOWN AND BATHURST."

MAX - BDW

EARLY IN 1941 RID MONITORS INTERCEPTED THE TRANSMISSIONS OF A STATION USING THE

CALL MAX. OUR BEARINGS SHOWED THAT MAX WAS IN WEST AFRICA, AND IT WAS LATER ESTABLISHED THAT THIS STATION WAS ACTUALLY OPERATED AS AN ESPIONAGE OUTLET FROM RIO DE ORO, WHICH IS SPANISH TERRITORY. MAX COMMUNICATED WITH PARIS.

COPIES OF INTERCEPTS OF THE TRANSMISSIONS OF THIS STATION WERE CONTINUOUSLY FURNISHED, THE ARMY NAVY FBI FOR MONTHS.

STILL ANOTHER CLANDESTINE RADIO WAS OPERATED BY THE GERMANS FROM A POINT FARTHER NORTH, NEAR CABO JUDY. THIS STATION COMMUNICATED WITH LORIENT THE GERMAN SUBMARINE BASE IN FRANCE.

AT TIMES STATIONS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS WERE ACTIVE AND OTHER CIRCUITS OPERATED BETWEEN TWO POINTS IN AFRICA WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT EUROPE DIRECTLY. THAT IS THEY FED THEIR TRAFFIC TO ONE OF THE MORE POWERFUL CLANDESTINE RADIOS FROM WHENCE IT WAS RELAYED ON TO GERMANY.

AT ONE TIME THERE WAS IN OPERATION FOR A SHORT TIME A CLANDESTINE RADIO CIRCUIT BETWEEN SPANISH GUINEA AND MADRID. THE MADRID CONTROL BEING THE SAME STATION THAT WAS IN 24 HOUR A DAY CONTACT WITH BERLIN ON THE MAIN EUROPEAN NET.

### CASE E43 CISNEROS TO ROME

ITALIAN CONTROLLED SPIES IN CISNEROS OPERATED A CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION IN CISNEROS AND COMMUNICATED DAILY WITH ROME UNTIL THE DAY OUR TROOPS LANDED IN ITALY. SINCE THAT DATE, CAREFUL MONITORING CONCLUSIVELY ESTABLISHED THAT THE CISNEROS TRANSMITTER HAS NOT BEEN IN OPERATION (ALTHOUGH OTHER TRANSMITTERS ARE STILL OPERATING FROM SPANISH TERRITORY.)

THIS CIRCUIT ORIGINALLY EMPLOYED THE CALLS UGI AND ULP. LATER THEY WENT OVER TO THE SPECIAL CALL SYSTEM FAVORED BY ITALIAN CLANDESTINE CIRCUITS. THIS PARTICULAR TYPE OF CALL LETTER

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.....CONTINUED.....

SELECTION MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PREDICT THE CALLS WHICH WOULD BE USED AFTER ONLY TEN DAYS OBSERVATIONS OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ITALIAN ESPIONAGE STATION WAS FURNISHED REGULARLY TO THE OSS AND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION COPIES OF THE INTERCEPTS OF ITS TRANSMISSIONS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FBI AND THE ARMY AND NAVY.

### CASABLANCA STATION AFD

A STATION OPERATED BY THE GERMAN ARMISTICE COMMISSION KNOWN AS AFD OPERATED IN CASABLANCA FOR MONTHS UNTIL THE DAY OUR TROOPS LANDED IN AFRICA ON NOVEMBER 10, 1942. ON THAT

DAY AFD OPERATED PRACTICALLY CONTINUOUSLY AND SENT MORE FIVE-LETTER CODE MESSAGES THAN HAD BEEN SENT IN ANY TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY. SOON THE TRANSMISSIONS CEASED AS THE RESULT OF OVERSEAS RADIO INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS OPERATED BY THE OSS GOING RIGHT TO THE STATION AS SOON AS THE WAY WAS OPENED BY OUR NAVAL AND ARMY FORCES AND GETTING IN OUT OF OPERATION. THE LAST MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY THIS STATION WAS INTERCEPTED BY OUR STATION IN NORTH SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND SUPERVISED BY TOM CANE.

RID MADE AVAILABLE TO SEVERAL AGENCIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT ALL INTERCEPTS OF THE TRANSMISSIONS OF STATION AFD FOR MONTHS.

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### NOTICE - ALL HANDS!

WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE SECRETARY INFORMED AS TO CHANGES IN ADDRESS. THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR TWO REASONS:

1. UNLESS THIS IS DONE, THE ROSTER CANNOT BE KEPT UP TO DATE.
2. WHEN MAIL IS RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY, DUE TO A MEMBER FAILING TO INFORM HIM OF THIS CHANGE, THE MEMBER'S NAME IS REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED REGARDING THE CHANGE.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAS THE NAMES OF FOURTEEN MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT AT PRESENT RECEIVING SGT. IS YOURS AMONG THEM?

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## SPY CATCHING IS FUN

BY: CHARLES SERVICE WAIE

SOMEWHERE ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF WORLD WAR I, RM2C SERVICE, USNRF, RADIO OPERATOR AT NAI, PHILA. NAVY YARD, AND WRITER OF THIS ACCOUNT, FELT THE NEED FOR SOMETHING MORE VITAL THAN HOURLY LOGGING OF QRN, WX FROM NAL, AND TFC NIL. CHIEF TALMADGE, REGULAR NAVY AND REGULAR GUY IN CHARGE OF NAI, WAS BRACED WITH THE IDEA I RATED AN ADVANCE IN RATING AND A CHANGE OF VENUE.

"CERTAINLY", SAID HE, "BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE AN EXAM FOR HIGHER RATING BEFORE I'LL RECOMMEND YOU. OK?" "AGREED", SAID I BRASHLY, HAVING NO IDEA WHAT AN EXAM MIGHT CONSIST OF - ESPECIALLY FROM A REGULAR NAVY CHIEF WITH A REPUTATION FOR BEING TOUGH ON USNRF ENLISTEES.

"ALRIGHT, SERVICE", HE SAID SOFTLY (NOT ALL NAVY CHIEFS BARK). "REPORT TOMORROW FOR YOUR EXAM, IT WILL CONSIST OF JUST ONE QUESTION AND I'LL TELL YOU THE QUESTION IN ADVANCE". WHAT COULD BE EASIER: THE CHIEF WAS ON MY SIDE. BUT, HEAVENS TO BETSY, (AND I DIDN'T LEARN THAT EXPRESSION IN THE NAVY), HERE WAS THE QUESTION. WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIFICATIONS FOR A HIGH POWERED NAVY TRANSMITTER TO BE INSTALLED AT EL CAYEY, CUBA? FULL DETAILS FOR A 500 KW SPARK TRANSMITTER, HEIGHT OF MASTS, NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND RADIO PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE STATION, HOUSING, FOOD AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLATION CREW AND STATION PERSONNEL, TONNAGE OF VESSEL TO CARRY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO EL CAYEY, NUMBER OF PIPE FITTERS, RIGGERS, PLUMBERS, TOOL DRESSERS, ETC. NEEDED, NUMBER FOR BARRACKS AND OFFICERS' QUARTERS, CARPENTERS AND ANYTHING ELSE NECESSARY.

LOOKED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT FOR A 21-YEAR-OLD RM2C WITH NO OTHER EXPERIENCE THAN JUNIOR OP ON MERCHANTS & MINERS SS "CRETAN", KQC AND 8 YEARS HAMMING. BUT, LE BON DIEU WAS ON MY SIDE. THE MONTH BEFORE, IRE PROCEEDINGS HAD A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF NAA MASTS, ANTENNA AND PERSONNEL. I WAS AN ASSOCIATE IRE MEMBER, HAD READ THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FIGURED I COULD FILL IN THE OTHER DETAILS AS THE CHIEF DIDN'T KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAN

I - WHICH WAS AN ABSOLUTE NIL.

SO, NEXT DAY THE EXAM CAME OFF WITH FLYING COLORS. TOOK FIVE HOURS TO ANSWER THAT ONE QUESTION BUT, WHEN THE CHIEF HAD READ THROUGH THE WHOLE THING, PAGE AFTER PAGE, HE CALLED ME IN HIS OFFICE AND SAID; "SERVICE, WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE A RADIO DESIGN ENGINEER, BALLISTICS EXPERT, BUILDING CONTRACTOR, TOOL DRESSER ESTIMATOR AND, PROBABLY, A FIRST CLASS LIAR? BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO GET YOU OUT OF MY STATION BEFORE THEY GIVE YOU MY JOB."

A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER I RECEIVED A NICE CERTIFICATE ATTESTING TO THE FACT I WAS NOW A SECOND CLASS RADIO GUNNER - WHATEVER THAT WAS. NOBODY SEEMED TO KNOW BUT I WAS TOLD I RATED WITH BUT AFTER AN ENSIGN, AND WAS DEFINITELY AN OFFICER IN THE U.S. NAVY, AND RM2C HAD TO SALUTE ME. BUT, MORE TO THE POINT, WERE ORDERS TO REPORT FOR DUTY TO THE DIRECTOR OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS WASHINGTON, D.C. THE IVORY TOWER OF NAVY COMMUNICATIONS WHERE ONLY A FEW NAVAL RESERVISTS EVER PENETRATED AND WERE ASSIGNED MENIAL JOBS BENEATH THE NOTICE OF REGULAR NAVY BRASS. WITH SHAKING KNEES I ARRIVED AT THE DNC OFFICE ONE HOT SUNDAY MORNING, FOUND CMDR. FAWELL HOLDING THE FORT SINGLE HANDED, NICELY CLAD IN UNDERSHIRT AND SUSPENDERS, ENGAGED IN SOME OVERTIME WORK THAT HAD TO BE PUT OFF BECAUSE OF A GOLF ENGAGEMENT THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. HE MADE ME WELCOME, ENDORSED MY TRANSFER PAPERS AND SAID TO REPORT FOR DUTY THE NEXT MORNING, MONDAY.

THEN HUNTING FOR ACCOMMODATIONS IN OVER-CROWDED WASHINGTON. FINALLY SAW A CLASS AD FOR A ROOM ON PENNSYLVANIA AVE, DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE WILLARD HOTEL. CALLED, FOUND IT WAS A HOUSE RUN BY THE WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE UNION (WCTU) WITH A VERY LARGE FRONT ROOM VACANT, A BACK ROOM OCCUPIED BY AN ARMY LIEUTENANT AND FRATERNITY BROTHER OF MY AGE, SIZE AND APPEARANCE, AND MY ROOM FACED OUT ON THE AVENUE WHERE I COULD VIEW ALL PARADES AND THINGS. IDEAL - EVEN THO IT WAS OWNED AND RUN BY THE WCTU - AND I LIKED MY EVENING HIGHBALL. REPORTING TO DNC NEXT

## SPY CATCHING IS FUN BY: CHARLES SERVICE W4IE ...CONTINUED .....

DAY, I FOUND QUITE A NUMBER OF HAMS ALREADY THERE, AMONG THEM TOM APPLEBY, W3AX, 00TC, WHO LATER ROOMED WITH ME, FRED GUTHRIE, JOHN COOPER, FRED SCHNELL (WHOSE CALLS THEN I DON'T REMEMBER) AND A SMATTERING OF OTHERS. CAPTAIN TODD, TO WHOM I WAS INTRODUCED ON ARRIVAL, DIRECTOR OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS, WAS A MAGNIFICENT GENTLEMAN AND OFFICER, THE FINEST WITH WHOM I EVER SERVED. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME WAS THAT INSIGNIA ON MY SHOULDERS, HAD NEVER HEARD OF A RADIO GUNNER, AND PROCEEDED TO RAISE ME TO ENSIGN STATUS. INCREASE IN PAY COMMUTATION OF QUARTERS AND OTHER ALLOWANCES TO BOOT. NO WONDER I LOVED HIM AT FIRST SIGHT!

JUST BEFORE GETTING INTO MY NARRATIVE HOW TO CATCH SPIES! I MUST RELATE AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED A FEW MONTHS AFTER I ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON. ONE OF MY DUTIES AT DNC WAS TO ISSUE PERMITS TO QUALIFIED NAVY OFFICERS TO USE RADIO RECEIVERS AT THEIR HOMES, IF THEY WISHED. REMEMBER, AT THAT TIME, EVERYONE EXCEPT MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS CLOSED DOWN TIGHT. NO HAM TRANSMITTERS, NO HAM OR OTHER RECEIVERS. THERE WAS NO BROADCAST OR TV IN THOSE DAYS, OF COURSE, AND EVERYTHING ELSE CIVILIAN HAD A LID ON IT. I ISSUED A NUMBER OF PERMITS BUT DIDN'T THINK IT NECESSARY TO WRITE MYSELF A PERMIT FOR THE LITTLE CRYSTAL SET IN MY ROOM WHICH I USED FOR GETTING PRESS AND OTHER TRANSMISSIONS FROM NAA IN THE EVENINGS. SO I WAS READING ONE NIGHT IN THE WCTU ROOM, BEFORE TOM APPLEBY JOINED ME - AND CAME A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. OPENED IT AND THERE WAS A NAVY CHIEF AND A GEB, COMPLETE WITH STERN LOOKS AND SIDE ARMS. INVITED THEM IN AND ASKED WHAT I COULD DO FOR THEM. THE CHIEF VOLUNTEERED THEY HAD THREE COUNTS AGAINST ME: (1) I WAS A DESERTER. (2) I WAS OPERATING A SECRET RADIO RECEIVER. (3) I WAS IMPERSONATING AN ARMY OFFICER.

BOY, QUITE A CHARGE WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT! ASKED THE CHIEF AND SAILOR TO HAVE SEATS AND WE WOULD GO OVER EACH CHARGE SEPARATELY. I TOLD THEM I WASN'T ARMED, EITHER, AND THEY COULD LAY ASIDE THEIR ARMS. A HIGHBALL APIECE (STRICTLY AGAINST REGS.) DID NOT HARM EITHER.

(1) A DESERTER. REPORTING TO CHDR. FAWELL

THAT SUNDAY MORNING ON ARRIVAL, HE HAD ENDORSED MY TRANSFER PAPERS BUT FORGOTTEN TO SEND A DUPLICATE BACK TO THE PHILA. NAVY YARD, SO THEY HAD ME DOWN AS NEVER REPORTING IN WASHINGTON FOR DUTY. CERTAINLY AWOL. I GOT OUT THE TRANSFER ENDORSEMENT BY THE CMDB. AND WAS CLEAR ON THAT COUNT.

(2) SECRET RECEIVING STATION. TOLD THE CHIEF I WAS THE GUY IN DNC WHO ISSUED PERMITS FOR RECEIVING STATIONS, HAD NEVER THOUGHT TO ISSUE ME ONE AND, IF HE WOULD WAIT, I'D WRITE MYSELF ONE. HE WAS SATISFIED.

(3) IMPERSONATING AN ARMY OFFICER. THAT HAD ME STUMPED. ASKED HERE WHERE THE REPORT OR COMPLAINT CAME FROM AND HE SAID FROM SOME OF THE OLD WCTU BIDDIES ON THE FIRST FLOOR, WHO HAD SEEN ME LEAVE IN ARMY LIEUTENANT UNIFORM SOMETIMES, AT OTHER TIMES IN NAVY ENSIGN UNIFORM. ALL OF A SUDDEN, LIGHT DAWNED. I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR TO THE REAR ROOM, WHERE MY ARMY LIEUTENANT FRATERNITY BROTHER LIVED, HE CAME WAS INTRODUCED - AND THE CHIEF IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED A CONSIDERABLE RESEMBLANCE IN AGE, HEIGHT AND LOOKS. SO, I WASN'T SHOT AT SUNRISE.

NOW FOR THE GERMAN SPIES. APPARENTLY, NOBODY IN THE ARMY STATIONED IN WASHINGTON WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTINENTAL CODE AS OUR DNC OFFICE GOT REQUESTS FROM THE ARMY TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THEY'D GOTTEN FROM CIVILIANS OF SECRET SHENANEGANS, CERTAINLY BY GERMAN SPIES. I WAS THE ONE ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THEM.

THE FIRST WAS FROM THE LANDLADY OF A FRENCH OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE FRENCH HIGH COMMISSION, WHO HAD AN ANTENNA STRUNG FROM HIS ROOM TO A POLE IN THE BACK YARD, AND SHE WAS SURE HE WAS SENDING SPY MESSAGES TO THE ENEMY. I HAD MET THE OFFICER AT SEVERAL NIGHT CLUB PARTIES, A MOST INOFFENSIVE FROG, AND THE ONLY THING I HAD AGAINST HIM,

## SPY CATCHING IS FUN BY: CHARLES SERVICE W4IE .....CONTINUED.....

HE ALWAYS SHOOK HANDS WITH HIS LITTLE FINGER AND, WHEN IT CAME TIME TO WHACK UP THE BILL AMONG THE GENTLEMEN, HE ALWAYS GOT A HURRY CALL TO THE JOHNNIE AND WAS NOT SEEN THEREAFTER. KNOWING HE ROSE LATE I DECIDED TO CATCH HIM IN HIS NIGHTGOWN AND CALLED AT 9AM. HE WELCOMED ME IN, I MADE SOME SILLY EXCUSE FOR CALLING THAT EARLY, AND EASED OVER TO THE WINDOW WHERE THE ANTENNA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. DEAR LORD, IT WAS A METAL CLOTHES LINE HE'D RIGGED FROM HIS WINDOW TO A FENCE POST WITH A PULLEY AT THE FAR END, AND, BEING A THRIFTY FRENCHMAN, HE WASHED HIS UNDERWEAR AT NIGHT AND FASTENED IT TO THE CABLE TO DRY. DAMMIT ALL NO SPY!

THE SECOND WAS A REPORT FROM AN APARTMENT OWNER THAT AFTER THE PBX (PRIVATE BRANCH EX.) OPERATOR WENT OFF DUTY AT 10PM AND PLUGGED IN A COUPLE OF LINES FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING CALLS, TENANTS HAD HEARD MYSTERIOUS CODE SIGNALS ON THEIR PHONES. THAT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING... SO I WENT TO THE APARTMENT HOUSE AFTER 10PM ONE NIGHT, THE OWNER FED ME CIGARETTES FROM SHEPARD'S HOTEL, CAIRO, (THE FINEST I'VE EVER SMOKED) AND WE LISTENED TILL ALMOST MIDNIGHT WITHOUT A SINGLE DOT OR DASH. NEXT NIGHT NOTHING EITHER. BUT, THE THIRD NIGHT, SUCCESS..THERE WERE VERY DEFINITE CODE GROUPS BUT THEY WEREN'T DOTS AND DASHES BUT DOTS ONLY. LISTENED INTENTLY, AND FORTUNATELY I'D REMEMBERED ENOUGH MORSE FROM PRE-1912 DAYS TO RECOGNIZE LETTERS AND WORDS HERE AND THERE. DIDN'T SOUND LIKE ENEMY SPY TRANSMISSIONS EITHER. ASKED THE PROPRIETOR FOR A FLASHLIGHT, CRAWLED OUT THE BACK WINDOW ONTO A ROOF WHERE HIS PHONE WIRES CAME IN - AND THERE WAS THE ANSWER. A WHOLE BUNCH OF WIRES PARALLEL TO THE PHONE LEADS, AND I TRACED THEM TO THE WESTERN UNION OFFICE A FEW DOORS AWAY. SOME SORT OF RESONANCE EFFECT OCCURRED BETWEEN PHONE AND W.U. WIRES WHEN THE PBX OPERATOR LEFT A FEW OF THE APARTMENT HOUSE LINES IN OPERATION. DIDN'T LOOK LIKE I'D GET A CITATION FROM ANYBODY FOR RUNNING A SPY STATION TO EARTH.

THIRD AND LAST - AND THAT WAS, I BELIEVE, PRODUCTIVE. ONE OF MY DUTIES AT DNC WAS TO MAKE AN ACCURATE FILE RECORD OF EVERY COMMERCIAL OR MILITARY RADIO SET IN THE WORLD, COMPLETE WITH AN ENORMOUS 10 X 20' WALL MAP

WITH COLORED PINS SHOWING THE LOCATION AND CATEGORY OF EACH STATION. AN INTERESTING JOB AS IT MEANT CONSULTING EVERY CALL BOOK OR REFERENCE TO STATIONS ANYWHERE, WITH POWER, HOURS OF OPERATION, ETC..AND GETTING ADDITIONAL INFO FROM EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD WE HAD A CONSULATE THAT COULD SUPPLY ANY DATA AT ALL. DURING WWI WE WERE PRETTY SURE THE MEXICAN GOV. WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH THE GERMANS, LENDING AID TO THE ENEMY, AND NATURALLY, WE WANTED ALL THE INFO ABOUT THEIR STATIONS AND WITH WHOM THEY COMMUNICATED AND WHY. ONE DAY ARMY INTELLIGENCE PHONED THEY WERE SENDING US A MEXICAN, WHO CLAIMED HE WAS A COMMERCIAL OPERATOR AND WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE US AS MUCH INFO AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THEIR COMMERCIAL STATIONS. IN DUE TIME, THE MAN ARRIVED, WELL GROOMED AND SPEAKING EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

CHATTED WITH HIM ON GENERAL SUBJECTS AWHILE, THEN BEGAN TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT MEXICAN COMMERCIAL STATIONS ON WHICH I HAD GOTTEN ACCURATE INFO ALREADY. PARTICULARLY, XDA, WHICH WE MONITORED IN WASHINGTON, AND WAS THOUGHT TO BE SENDING ENEMY INFO TO THE GERMANS. HE WAS QUITE VAGUE ON SOME, AND WAS DOWNRIGHT INCORRECT ON OTHERS THAT HE MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT. LOOKED SUSPICIOUS. WHY WAS HE SO EVASIVE, WHAT WAS HE DOING IN WASHINGTON GIVING US INFORMATION ABOUT HIS COMMERCIAL STATIONS THAT WERE ALREADY SUSPECT? COULD HE BE UP THERE TO GET THE SAME INFO ABOUT OUR STATIONS?

YOU OTS WILL REMEMBER WHEN APGAR IN NEW JERSEY RECORDED THE PRESS TRANSMISSIONS FROM THE SAYVILLE STATION JUST BEFORE WE GOT INTO THE FIGHT, GOT SUSPICIOUS WHEN THE STATION WOULD "BREAK" ON CERTAIN WORDS, SENT THE RECORDINGS TO WASHINGTON AND IT WAS FOUND SAYVILLE HAD WORKED OUT A METHOD BASED ON THE "BREAKS", FOR SENDING INFO TO ENEMY

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## SPY CATCHING IS FUN BY: CHARLES SERVICE WAIE

....CONTINUED.....

RAIDERS OFF OUR COAST. ORIGINALLY, SAYVILLE WAS BUILT BY THE GERMANS TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE FRENCH, DR. ZENNICK WAS THE DESIGNER AND IN CHARGE AT SAYVILLE WHEN WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN GERMANY AND FRANCE, AND THE STATION CONTINUED OSTENSIBLY SENDING PRESS EVERY EVENING TO SHIPS AT SEA. OUR GOVERNMENT, DISCOVERING WHAT WAS GOING ON, SENT A SQUAD OF MARINES TO SHUT DOWN THE STATION AND TAKE THE GERMAN PERSONNEL INTO CUSTODY. WHEN THE MARINES MARCHED IN THE FRONT DOOR, DR. ZENNICK HASTILY DEPARTED BY THE BACK AND, AS FAR AS WE KNEW IN WASHINGTON, HE HAD MADE GOOD HIS GET-AWAY AND WAS THEN IN MEXICO ASSISTING THE LATTER. (ACTUALLY, I HEARD HE HAD BEEN CAUGHT BEFORE GETTING ACROSS THE BORDER AND WAS INTERNED FOR THE DURATION SOMEWHERE IN GEORGIA. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME.)

WITH ALL THE FOGGY OR INCORRECT INFORMATION I WAS GETTING FROM THE MEXICAN OPERATION IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO POP A QUICK, POINTED QUESTION AT HIM AND SEE WHAT HIS REACTION WOULD BE. SO, LEANING ACROSS THE DESK AND FIXING HIM WITH A PAIR OF GLARING EYES (I DIDN'T WEAR TRIFOCALS THEN) I DEMANDED: "WHERE IS DR. ZENNICK?" YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE REACTION. HIS FACE TURNED RED AS A BEET, HE JUMPED FROM HIS SEAT, HIS ARMS STARTED WAVING AND HE BEGAN SHOUTING HE HADN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE ZENNICK WAS. IT WAS ALL TOO STUPIDLY DRAMATIC BUT THE UNEXPECTED QUESTION HAD PRODUCED A VIOLENT REACTION. HE WOUND UP THE INTERVIEW AND DEPARTED, ESCORTED BY AN ARMED GUARD AND I PHONED A REPORT TO MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HE ACTED LIKE A PHONEY, GAVE WRONG INFO AND EXPLODED WHEN I MENTIONED ZENNICK. LATER, ADVICE ARRIVED FROM THE ARMY THEY GRILLED HIM ON THE BASIS OF MY REPORT AND CAME TO THE CONCLUSION HE WAS SOME SORT OF MEXICAN CIVILIAN SPY AND INTERNED HIM FOR THE DURATION. I WONDER WHO HE WAS? MAYBE, ONE OF THE XES I TALK TO WHEN THE BAND IS OPEN.

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\* SOS - SOS - SOS - DE - SGT \*  
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\* YOCB-II NEEDS MORE MATERIAL FOR SGT. YOU WILL NOTE THAT \*  
\*  
\* THE AUGUST ISSUE IS A BIT LIGHT. WE KNOW THAT THE MEM- \*  
\*  
\* BERS HAVE A WEALTH OF STORIES, PICTURES, AND ARTICLES \*  
\*  
\* WHICH WOULD LOOK GOOD AND MAKE INTERESTING READING IN \*  
\*  
\* SGT. LET'S HAVE THEM, GENTLEMEN! \*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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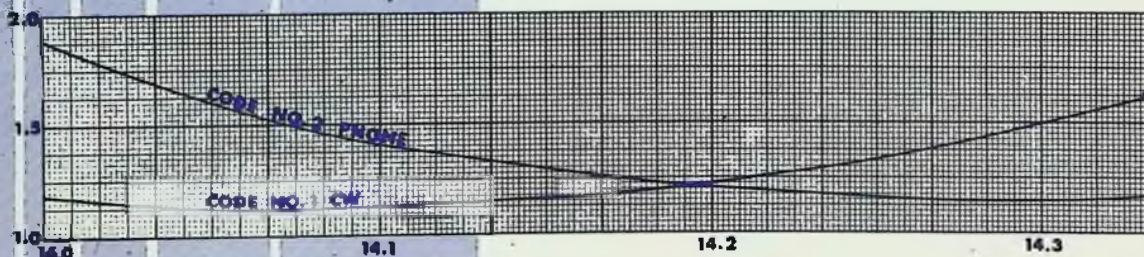
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