

how can an amateur radio transmission get into a burglar alarm and create a problem? At one o'clock in the morning, I had a QSO on 80m with a friend, and had just finished when my wife came through to say the whole place was surrounded with police. . . On looking through our bedroom window, a black maria and two police cars could be seen, together with hairy police dogs and coppers everywhere. One came to the back door, and explained that the whole area was surrounded and that they were looking for an intruder, as a result of a 999 call. We were both very puzzled, and frankly, rather scared, particularly when the policeman requested a search of our premises, finding nothing of course. After perhaps half an hour, the pandemonium died down and there was just my neighbour remaining looking incredibly puzzled, in his dressing gown by the back door telling my wife that he couldn't understand it. He had been in bed with his wife upstairs, and their very young child had been fast asleep in another room, when they all woke up as they heard some noise. The child later claimed that there had been a large doggy in her bedroom, while my two friendly neighbours had heard burglars' voices downstairs. The husband got out of bed, and looked for the nearest blunt instrument, and crept to the top of the stairs whilst his XYL disappeared under the sheets with the telephone and whispered to Scotland Yard that they had intruders. The police asked her to speak up, so she whispered louder, giving her name and address which resulted in the police arriving. They must have thought they were a house of lunatics, but I knew them to be very level headed folk and so I suggested that it might have been my amateur radio. The following morning, I discovered that indeed it was, for the alarm had a minute audio IC in it feeding a very small loudspeaker which was designed to make a hooting noise when the system had been set, properly, but not completely turned on. The problem was that the audio IC and miniature speaker (only around 2cms) was always live, and only the hooter section was muting, and so my voice was picked up on 80m, rectified in the normal way at the input and a garbling noise came

out of the miniature speaker at full volume, thus sounding like an intruder downstairs to sleepy people upstairs! Of course I was incredibly embarrassed, but both the police and the Home Office thought it a huge joke, although the burglar alarm people did get fairly cross. The large dog in the bedroom will still remain a mystery!

Going mobile

Mobile operators are always having interesting experiences, and in the days of AM on the HF bands one heard the most amazing tales of amateurs passing a gymkhana and hearing their voices booming out over the tannoy system and making various remarks which greatly disturbed the gymkhana organisers! I suppose the funniest incident that happened to me though, while mobile, was when my wife and I were trying to find a very high point in the old Welsh county of Montgomeryshire in 1961. We had found an old disused farm with gates either end of it, with a track going right through the farm, but we realised that we were completely lost and time was running a little short. After many calls, we eventually raised G4LU, Stan, in Oswestry, Shropshire, who took bearing on us and who was able to give us an approximate position. He contacted two other friends on 2m, and with the help of an ordnance survey map, managed to locate our exact position using normal direc-



tion finding methods. He was able to tell us that we should drive north through the farm and then immediately turn left, and at the top of a track turn right onto an unclassified road which eventually led up to a very high point. We were fairly sure which was North, and so my wife drove as directed, but the ground was getting soggy and more grassy, eventually with no sign of a track at all. We stopped our Standard Companion estate car in the middle of a field of cows, scratched our heads, and drove all the way down again, while remaining in contact with G4LU, who eventually twigged that we had indeed got South and North mixed up. After this rather hair raising adventure, we eventually did find the correct way, and managed to work many stations who had not heard anyone in Montgomeryshire before, on 2M.

