



The Quarterly Journal

Of The

Royal Signals

Amateur Radio Society

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

PRESIDENT : The Signal Officer-in-Chief,

Major General A.M.W. WHISTLER, CBE

VICE PRESIDENT : Major General E.S. COLE, (Retd) CB, CBE

G2EC

TREASURER : Major G.S. SYMONS, R Signals

G3DSS

GENERAL SECRETARY : Captain J.E.P. PHILP, R Signals

AND EDITOR

G3NJM

All Correspondence Should Be Addressed To:

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
11th SIGNAL REGIMENT (DEPOT),
VIMY LINES,
CATTERICK CAMP,
YORKSHIRE.

FOREWORD

by Major General A.M.W. WHISTLER, C.B.E.,
Signal Officer-in-Chief

President, Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.

It is with great pleasure that I write this foreword to the First issue of MERCURY, the quarterly newsheet of our Amateur Radio Society.

Some years have elapsed since the first attempts to form the Society were made, and it is therefore something in the nature of a milestone in our history that the Society is now fully formed and that this newsheet is being circulated to all members as a visible sign of its birth.

Amateur radio is possibly one of the most absorbing and fascinating hobbies of all, for it is true to say that unlike many other hobbies its call, once rooted in the individual, never completely disappears. For us in Signals amateur radio has far wider appeal. First, communications are our business professionally and there are many who have benefited and more who can benefit in their careers from the knowledge and experience of radio matters gained from practical interests and experiment in amateur radio. Second, we are a large Corps, even with present day reductions, and are deployed in most parts of the world where British Army units are stationed. Keeping this widespread Corps of ours knitted together is not easy but I believe that with the establishment of our Society, and the means it offers of intercommunicating between its various clubs and stations, will help substantially towards this end. Third, I know there always are very many keen young radio enthusiasts of an age when the decision for or against a Service career is of urgency and importance; if we can offer to them a Society and an organisation which provides scope for their hobby, then I am sure we will benefit as a Corps by attracting them to us.

Last, the Society offers material advantages in the way of assistance on equipment problems, but I must add a caution. The organisation so far has been started and is being run by a few enthusiasts, helped considerably by the co-operation of the Army Wireless Reserve Amateur Radio Society. If the Society is to continue and flourish, about which I have no doubt, it will depend upon support and active support from all members of the Society and indeed all members of our Corps, I feel confident that this will be given.

In conclusion I would like to wish you all the best of luck, good DX and my sincerest

73's.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

There is a Representative in each Command at home and overseas. In some cases we do not yet know the names of the overseas representatives but this is being dealt with. Your Representative is there to help and represent you. Your problems should be sent to him and should he not be able to help he will contact headquarters. So, contact your Representative and let your wishes be known to him. At the Annual General Meeting every member is entitled to a vote but you must agree that if your Command Representative has been able to sound you out in good time he can forward your votes in one letter. This will save an awful lot of writing!

TA/AER Representative

Captain A. Taylor, R. Signals (GW8PG),
37 Peckerill Road,
Greasby,
Upton,
Wirral
Cheshire.

Northern Command Representative

Captain (TOT) A.C. Earl, R. Signals (G3FGN),
Army Apprentices School,
Uniacke Barracks,
Pennypot Lane,
Harrogate,
Yorks.

Southern Command Representative

Lt Col Sir E. Nepean, Bart.,(Retd.,) (G5YN),
CSO's Branch,
Headquarters,
Southern Command,
Wilton,
Salisbury,

Eastern Command Representative

Lt B. Gillor, R. Signals,
605 Signal Troop (London District),
Beavers Lane Camp,
Hounslow,
Middlesex.

Western Command Representative

Captain D.B. Hopkins, MBE, R. Signals,
CSO's Branch,
Headquarters,
Western Command,
Chester.

B.A.O.R. Representative

Major J.C. Clinch, R. Signals, (DL2ER)
Headquarters,
1 (BR) Corps,
British Forces Post Office 39.

Other Commands

Not yet known. All correspondence from these commands should be sent direct to the General Secretary for the time being.

THE NEW SOCIETY

What is behind it?

Radio Amateurs have banded together to share their knowledge to make new friends ever since CQ went out. The RN and RAF have formed their Societies but it was as long ago as 1953 that concerted efforts were made to form the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. Now in 1961 the Society exists. It means to every Amateur, and to everybody interested in Radio that there is now for serving or past members of our Corps, a central, officially recognised Society, Our new Society is for the furtherance of these interests and they have been clearly laid out in the Rules. Financial help will take time but will come. Advice and assistance about forming Clubs and obtaining obsolete Radio Equipment is also our aim. The funds used to run the Society are provided by the members but it is hoped that some form of grant can be obtained.

While the Society does not distinguish between serving and past members the main effort must be directed toward getting Overseas Clubs on the air so that they can link up with members at Home. We are sure that the past members of our Corps will appreciate this urgent need.

What does it mean to you?

It costs you but 2/6d per year or £2.2.0. for Life Membership. You will get a Quarterly News Letter. In it we will publish news and views of our members. We will also publish details of the Members' Purchasing Scheme whereby you can obtain equipment and components at attractive Discounts through Society Headquarters. We do the ordering and you pay us. We will then pay the Manufacturers. You will not be able to get this Discount by dealing direct with the Manufacturer. "Through me" is the way the Scheme works. The Society makes no profit on these transactions whatsoever and it is merely one of the services we provide. Finally, there is something that can't be bought and that is that you get the chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

The Future

Our Society is very new and must learn to walk before it can run, Other famous Amateur Radio Societies have taken a long time to get going, so don't expect miracles overnight. Your officers are constantly aware of their responsibilities and will do everything possible for you. Even in 1961 letters still take up to a week to reach their world-wide destinations. The future of this Society is in your hands, for the life-blood of it is the members themselves whose vital support we need. More members mean that the Society has bigger funds to help you. Finally, what could be better than that our Corps should succeed in running and operating a first-class Society that could well be a model for an Army Amateur Radio Society

The Headquarters Station.

The Headquarters of our Royal Signals ARS is at CATTERICK and its callsign is G3CIO. It has just recently moved to a new QTH near the School of Signals, 500 feet above sea level. The Club has a large membership not only of Amateurs, but of many members who are interested in building and construction. We even have a Colour Television system being built by one of its members! There is a comprehensive range of test instruments, and plenty of bench room which has been wired up by the Club members themselves. Most of the work has been done on a voluntary basis by members. There are five Radio Amateurs here in CATTERICK who are all active members of the Club. They are:- G3DSS, G3IBB, G3NOT, G3NJM and G3PCV. The rig consists of a KW Vanguard Tx, "Eddystone" 888A and two AR88 Rxs, An old 53 Set is going to be reconstructed as a linear amplifier as soon as the SSB exciter is ready. Aerials consist of a three band quad for 10, 15 and 20 and an extended Zepp will cover the LF Bands. It is hoped that we shall be on 2 metres soon, G3CIO is operating now and contacts or schedules are welcomed.

What we want for "Mercury"

If "Mercury" is to succeed we need your articles for publication, so here is a list of the sort of things we want from you:-

- i) Articles on your Club or Private Station. Base it on the SWM's "The Other Man's Station". A brief history of the owner should also be included, i.e. rank, trade, etc.
- ii) Technical articles with a practical bias, Circuit diagrams should be included wherever appropriate.
- iii) Articles of a general nature with a bias on amateur radio in everyday work, i.e. DXPEDITIONS.

These are just a few of the contributions we need. If you think of any more then we will be very pleased to publish them. When submitting articles for publication it is preferable that they should be typed but this is not essential. Circuit diagrams should be drawn as large as possible. Articles must not contravene the Official Secrets Act. Articles are liable to be re-edited to suit the space available. Style is not important and we do hope that members will not be shy in coming forward with their contributions.

Writing to Headquarters.

When writing to Headquarters, please print your name and address and, when you get it, your membership number. This saves an awful lot of time, as the General Secretary has to deal with a lot of correspondence in his spare time and letters which are difficult to read have to wait for translation until later! So you see how you can help save time.

ARMY WIRELESS RESERVE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

In many ways the Army Wireless Reserve Amateur Radio Society may be said to be the forerunner of Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and a brief history of AWRARS may not be out of place in the first issue of R. Signals A.R.S. newsletter.

Early in 1953 a paragraph appeared in Short Wave Magazine calling for volunteers for an Army Emergency Reserve unit for radio amateurs - No 1 Army Wireless Reserve Squadron. The Officer Commanding was Major Dennis Haylock G3ADZ and the writer claims to have been the first other rank volunteer. At its first camp in the summer of 1953 there were six hams in the Squadron:- G3ADZ, AMO, DNQ, EJF, FDU and one other whose callsign has been forgotten. Amateur radio activity was a prime feature of the squadron's activities; two members were always missing from their quarters at reveille, they were chasing W's on 7mcs. During the fortnight schedules were kept with the H.Q. Station of M.A.R.S. in Washington using a 53 set and a vertical aerial.

In addition to an amateur station in Blacon Camp, Chester, there was always a lot of top band portable activity from the rarer counties of North Wales and many Signal Exercises were carefully planned to cover Merioneth and Denbigh. One recalls a certain Corporal, unable to work Chester from Lake Bala on the net frequencies, who assured his C.O. that the rig was working fb, he'd just got 589 from G3---- in Liverpool.

In order to put the Squadron's amateur radio activities on a regular basis AWRARS was formed in 1955 with Gus Taylor, GW8PG, as Chairman and G3FDU as Hon. Secretary. The following year an approach was made to the G.P.O. for a special callsign and GB3AWR made its appearance on the amateur radio bands.

In 1956 some six weeks after a most successful camp the majority of the Squadron found themselves back in khaki for the Suez emergency. Under the command of G3ADZ 2 Press Communications Squadron, as it was now called, took part in the Port Said operation and caused great consternation on 14mcs when MD5AZ, MD5AMO, and MD5DNQ appeared for a few days. Some members of the squadron were posted to other units and operated /A from the South of England.

As a result of the emergency the Squadron suffered a major upheaval and the following year only a nucleus under the command of Major John Bladon G3FDU, attended camp at Chester. G3ADZ, now a full-time civilian, took over as Hon. Secretary of the Society and G3EJF the Editorship of the hitherto rather spasmodic newsletter. Largely due to the efforts of G3ADZ the membership of AWRARS increased over the years, many of the new members having never served with the Squadron. In this way an organisation was built up of serving and ex-members of the Corps with a common interest in Amateur Radio.

The Society is proud to have started the "Amateur Bands Intruder" Watch and this service, now officially sponsored by R.S.G.B. is still organised by G3ADZ.

In recent years a most worthwhile activity has been the correspondence course run by GW8PG which has helped quite a number of members to pass R.A.E.

Having seen R Signals A.R.S. established and Amateur Radio recognised in the Corps, AWRARS will become once again the unit club of the hams of 404 Signal Squadron (Press Communications) as the unit is now called. With some fifteen callsigns appearing on the nominal roll GB3AWR should not lack operators in future years.

A MESSAGE FROM G3ADZ

I am very pleased to have been invited to send a few lines for this first issue of "Mercury". The idea of an amateur radio society for the Army is not new, and since 1945 a number of us have tried to pursue the venture.

To some extent, the Army Wireless Reserve Amateur Radio Society has been able to fill the gap, and take its place beside the R.N.A.R.S, and R.A.F.A.R.S.. Being based upon one AER Signal Squadron, and with very limited time and resources it has never before proved possible to gain official recognition on a National basis. It is very right and proper that Royal Signals should now accept this responsibility.

This action has only been made possible through the understanding and support of certain of our senior officers, in particular the S.O. in C. and Major General E.S. Cole, CB, CBE, G2EC. The fact that whilst still serving as Director of Telecommunications, Major General Cole accepted office as President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, points to the importance of amateur radio as a technical hobby. Many other individual amateurs and clubs have given me a great deal of help during past years, and to all concerned, I extend my sincere thanks.

The Army of 1961 recognises the need for activity in various hobbies. Amateur Radio offers wide scope for both operating skill and technical experiment. Unit Clubs will now be able to meet the needs of existing amateurs, and all newcomers who show interest. With the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society now a fact, and no longer a dream, proper encouragement can be given. Our new Society deserves a great future, and if all of us give it 100% support, it will very soon be able to take its rightful place among the more important British amateur radio organisations.

MEMBERS PURCHASING SCHEME

To obtain any of the components and equipment listed below members should:

- (a) Write their order to Headquarters.
- (b) Enclose some stamps to cover expenses of running the Scheme. 6d in the £ is the average cost.
- (c) Include your Membership number.

Please note there is no credit and no HP - "cash on the nail" only. Cheques and Postal Orders are acceptable.

The following firms in conjunction with RAF and RS ARS have agreed to give the following Discounts:-

| | | |
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| Labgear | - | 5% off List Price. |
| Tiger Radio | - | 15% off List Price. |
| KW Electronics | - | 20% off components made by them. 12½% off Manufacturer's gear, except SSB. 5% off their SSB equipment. 10% off American gear. |
| Heathkits | | 10% off List Price. |
| Lustraphone | | -Prices on application (approx. 25% off). |
| Geloso Equipment | | -25% off Amateur equipment only. (£21.0.0. for their Rx Converter). |
| Sorad | - | 10% off Minimum order £5.0.0. This firm deals with all well-known makes of components and Eddystone" Rx. |
| Avo | - | 15% off all, except Multi-minor which is 25% off. |
| Newmarket | | Prices on application but they are very economical to Transistors-members. Some at under half List Price. |
| Hunts | - | 33½% off List Prices and then a further 20% off that. |
| Dubilier | - | 40% off List Price. |
| Bulgin | - | 30% off List Price (minimum order £10.0.0.) |

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| Mosley | - | 20% off List Price. |
| STC | - | Power DIODES PIV 400 @ 500 m/a 9/- each only in lots of 12 or more. |
| GEC Valves | - | 20% off but £25.0.0. minimum order. |
| Aveley | - | Toroidal Transformers and DC Transistor Converters - 25% off List Price. |

It is emphasised that the above equipment and components are solely for the use of members of Royal Signals ARS and that misuse may lead to the loss of these facilities. In some cases it is possible to correlate orders in order to obtain the maximum Discount, and Member Clubs are urged to contact each other before ordering through Headquarters. As, and when more information is available it will be published in the next issue of "Mercury".

