

A Celebration of the life of

Ray Evans

16th May 1927 - 6th September 2017



St Mary's Church, Bampton

Friday 29th September

11:30am

Sentences and Prayer

Hymn: Oh Jesus, I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Oh, speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then to rest receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD forever.

The Lesson: Isaiah 40: 27 to 31

Address

Hymn: The day thou gavest Lord, is ended

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

Reading: Taken from Quaker Faith & Practice

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory

for ever and ever.

Amen

Onward Christian Soldiers

Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
see his banner go!

Refrain:

*Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!*

At the sign of triumph
Satan's host doth flee;
On, then, Christian soldiers,
on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver
at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices,
loud your anthems raise! *[Refrain]*

Like a mighty army
moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
where the saints have trod;
We are not divided;
all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
one in charity. *[Refrain]*

Onward, then, ye people,
join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor,
unto Christ the King;
This thro' countless ages
men and angels sing. *[Refrain]*



Royal Corps of Signals Collect:

Almighty God, whose messengers go forth in every age giving light and understanding, grant that we of the Royal Corps of Signals, who speed the word of man to man, may be swift and sure in sending the message of Thy truth into all the World. May we serve Thee faithfully and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, make such success of our soldierly duties on this earth, that we may be found worthy to receive the Crown of Life hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Commendation and Blessing



The Family would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have attended the service today and for the messages of support received. Donations in memory of Ray are welcomed for Sobell House.

Following the service, the family wish to invite you to join them for refreshments at The Vines, Burford Rd, Black Bourton, Bampton OX18 2PF

**Funeral Arrangements by : E Taylor & Son,
21 Corbett Road, Carterton, OX18 3LG**

Ray and Sarah Evans settled into Bampton after military globe-trotting in 1964. Despite being Roman Catholic through and through, Sarah was happy to attend St Mary's church in Bampton, where she gradually assumed cleaning and linen care, as well as the role of Sacristan in the late 70s.

Mum filled this role with huge dedication and when she knew she was seriously ill, she asked Dad to take over the Sacristan baton and 'trained' him accordingly. She passed away in 1999.

Between them they made huge input into the overall smooth running of the church and with Dads professional Engineering skills he was often put to good use, providing the huge star which appears each Christmas, the large Easter cross and speakers. He was the go-to man for anything technical for many years.

Dad also created a pop-up ham radio station during the annual Ride & Stride event.

Rev David Lloyd resided over the parish during most of this time and his regular visits to both of them during their last days and weeks provided much appreciated support for us all. And when dad moved to Sobell House, David also drove to see him there.

That the Rev David Battersby never let too much time go by without a visit to Dad is also heart warming and we are touched by his constant loyalty and friendship during this past year.

Both of us were baptized at St Mary and have so many associated memories throughout the church year; indeed it would be virtually impossible to walk around the church without recalling some Mum or Dad memory attached to every nook and cranny of its huge walls.

This era may be over, but it is lovely to see how much of their mark lives on.

Daughters Rae and Julie Evans

Army Communications



The Role of The

Royal Corps of Signals

Radio Station Bampton. Oxfordshire

1939 to 1969



Author's Preface.

During the winter of 2005 the Bampton Archive (Oxfordshire) presented a display entitled "The History of The Bampton Wireless Station". The display had been compiled by a member of the Royal Air Force which had taken over the site in 1969. The display made little reference to the Royal Corp of Signals, who built the camp in 1943 and maintained "Crucial" radio communications throughout the world until 1969. I felt that this work was very unsupportive of the Royal Signals personnel who had given of their services to the place and I suggested the same in the visitors' book. I also left some more photographs for the chairman.

Shortly after my visit to the Archive I was called by Ms. Jo Lewington, the Chairman of Bampton Archive, to thank me for the photographs. She mentioned my comment and I think it was I who suggested that a more balanced account be given of the part played by the Royal Signals at Bampton, after all, the station had operated during the troubled periods of World War 2, the Korean War and the Cold War and it was Signals personnel who had staffed and maintained the station.

In effect what I was saying was the RAF was handed a fully functional radio station which had stood the test of time. That the Royal Signals had made this possible was, in my opinion, insufficiently stressed... I had served two tours of duty* at the station and was still in contact with quite a few people who had served in Bampton and were friends of mine. I suggested to Ms Lewington that I thought I could produce a more suitable history of the site. I had just talked myself into a job.

I do not think I would have been able to have compiled such a complete history of the station, even with my personal knowledge, if it had not been for members of the "254 Old Boy's Association". We had all served and were trained as Boy Soldiers in Catterick during the years of 1942 to 1948. It was mainly the ex Boys of the earlier period 1942 to 46 who were to provide me with photographs and written reports of their stay there. It was the majority of them that helped me compile a list of overseas stations for which Bampton had served as a radio receiver station. As trained personnel we were logically the people to operate and maintain the complex radio equipment at Bampton. That is why we were posted there. I doubt if this fact is recorded any where else.

* Nov. 54 to Dec. 59 & June 63 to May 67. Retired then to live in Bampton



Boys In Training



Catterick



Radio Amateurs also assisted considerably in providing help and information; their callsigns appear throughout this account of the Bampton Receiver Station and its role in Army Communications. Thanks also to The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. I also received considerable help from William V. Barbone OBE, who had served at the transmitting end of our network during the Middle East and Italian Campaigns of WW2. “Bill,” and Lt. Col. Don Herring Rtd., have provided me with considerable written and photographic information and I am extremely indebted to them.

There may appear to be different reports of the same subject, where I have taken reports written by others and used them verbatim. The differences are so small that I have left them, since they do not deflect from the overall picture of the station. Also, because most of us are over seventy years of age, some of the memories may be slightly distorted or inaccurate and being prepared some 55/60 years after events, this has to be expected. The account by Lt. Col. Geoff Oakley Rtd. gives a true picture of life at the station together with that of Geoffrey Collier.

I have given map references to places which are accurate and produced with a GPS instrument. I have done this as it is quite possible, you, the reader will no longer be able to find the place by name. Road names change and even disappear.

There is a grey area of the Corps’ activities in Bampton during 1939-1943. We can establish that the Royal Corps of Signals were living in the village. Currently we are not aware of their activities. Mrs Freda Bradley suggests that they were operating Radios from Fox Close. Efforts are being made to establish what they were and to update this history at a later date.

To conclude. This is not an account of glossy photos which have been posed for, in fact some are of pretty poor quality. I hope it is an account of the way in which the soldiers lived and explains how the station functioned. I have included how Bampton interfaced with many other stations throughout the world and the equipment used by them to transmit signals to Bampton.

Raymond C. Evans. Ex Warrant Officer Class 1. Royal Signals. 1965. Account Dec. 2006.



The Royal Signals Come To Bampton

- When?
- Why Bampton?
- What were they doing until 1943?
- What changed in 1943/44?



Reference to a book “Bampton. The Way It Was”

By Mrs Freda Bradley

“In 1939 The Royal Signals were the first soldiers billeted in barns and private houses all over Bampton, whilst the Radio Station and the camp was built. Six houses had been let and two had just been completed, so the Army took those over for the duration.”

BAMPTON | *The Way It Was*

Memories of growing up in a West Oxfordshire Village



Freda Bradley

Foreword by Lord Donoughmore
Preface by Don Rouse



However, other accounts show a case of bad reporting

**Extract from Witney Gazette
28th February 1976**

Although the R.A.F has been at Bampton a comparatively short time since 1969 those tall aerial Masts have been a feature of the countryside for about 35 years.

For it was the Royal Signals Regiment who first set up a communications station at Weald in 1939. They remained until September 1969, when the station was taken over by the R.A.F.

THE VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTY OF
OXFORD
VOLUME XIII
BAMPTON HUNDRED (PART ONE)



PUBLISHED FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
BY
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Quoted from the Witney Gazette

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Quote Page 17

The Royal Signals Regiment
Established a listening station
south-west of Weald Lane in
1939. It was taken over by
the R.A.F. in 1969



7

The evidence suggests otherwise!

Mr George Collins, the farmer who owned the land at the time wrote this note.

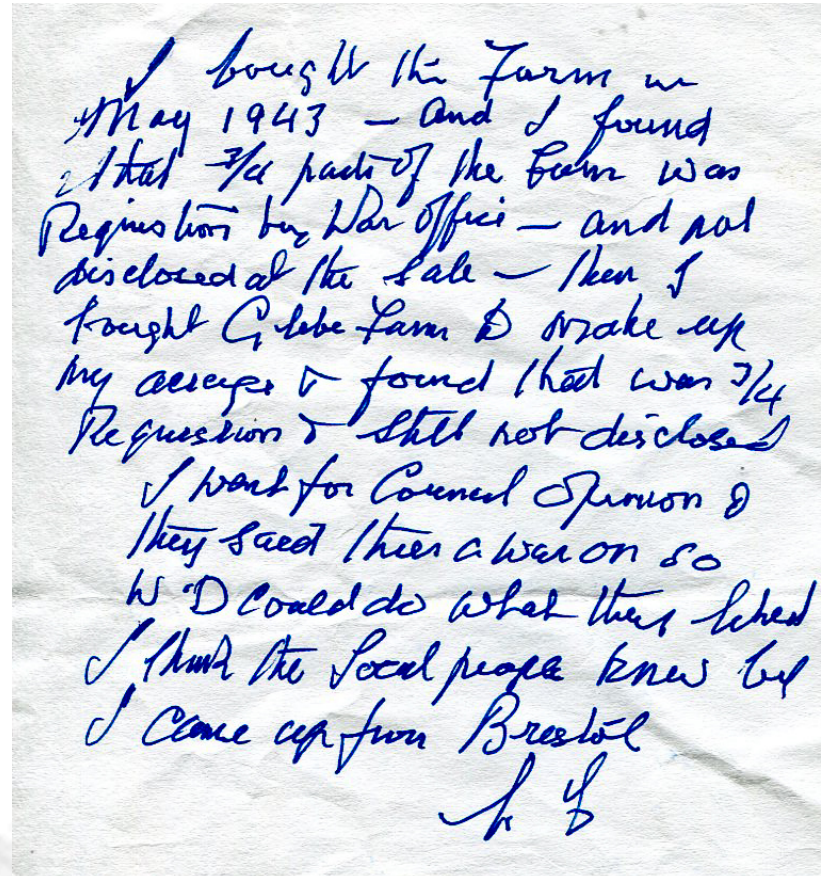
“I bought the farm in **May 1943** – and I found that $\frac{3}{4}$ parts of the farm was Requisition by the War Office – and not disclosed at the sale - then I bought Glebe Farm to make up my acreage & found that was $\frac{3}{4}$ Requisition and still not disclosed.

“I went for Council opinion & they said there’s a war on so WD could do what they liked. I think the local people knew but I came up from Bristol
GC”

Mr Collins is adamant that no buildings were on this land at time of purchase.

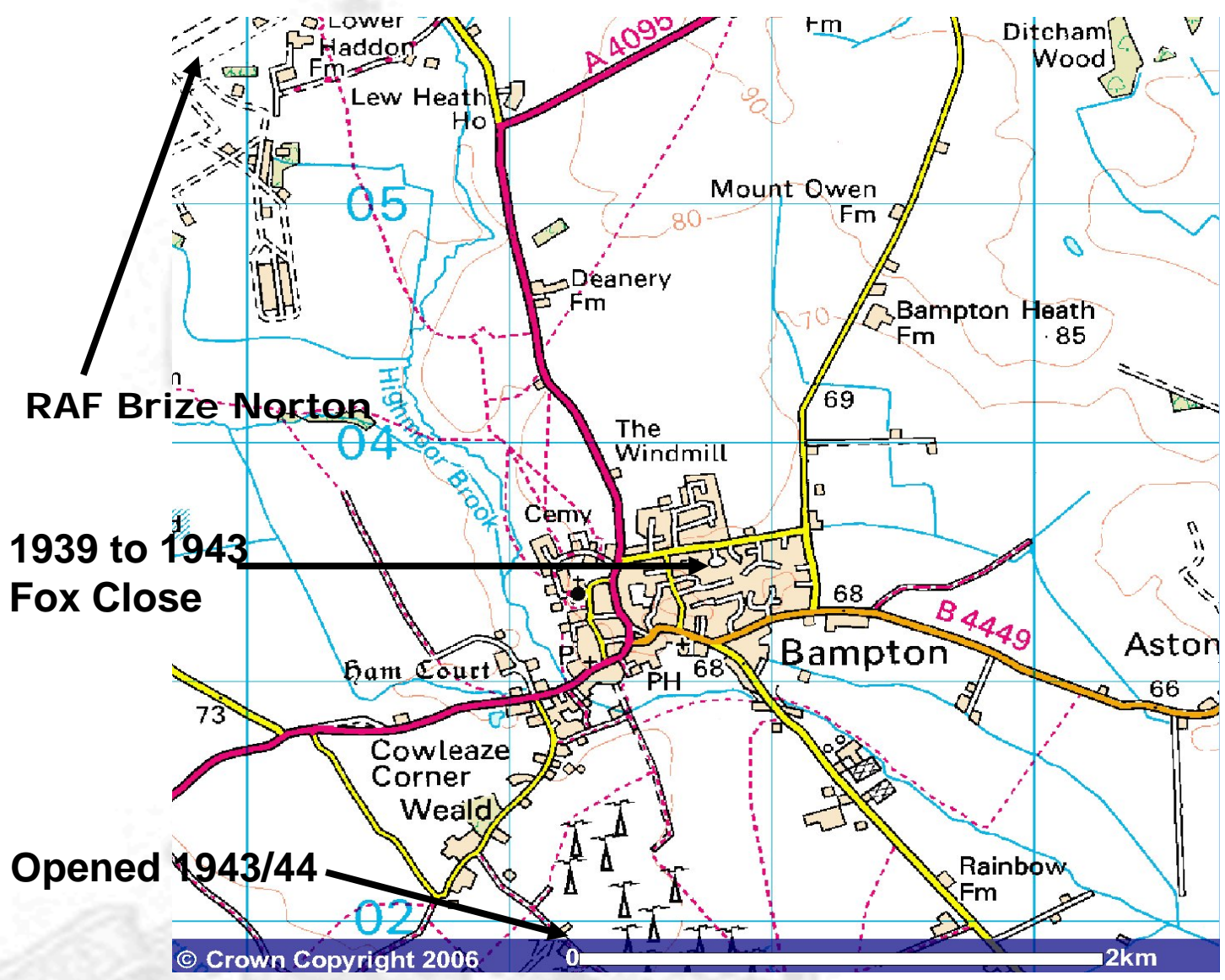
One other account from Ray Webb G3EKL states.

”I was posted to Droitwich either side of Xmas 1943 and Bampton was never mentioned. Oakhanger and Pirbright only.”



I bought the Farm in
May 1943 - and I found
that $\frac{3}{4}$ parts of the Farm was
Requisition by War Office - and not
disclosed at the sale - then I
bought Glebe Farm to make up
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W.D could do what they liked
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G C





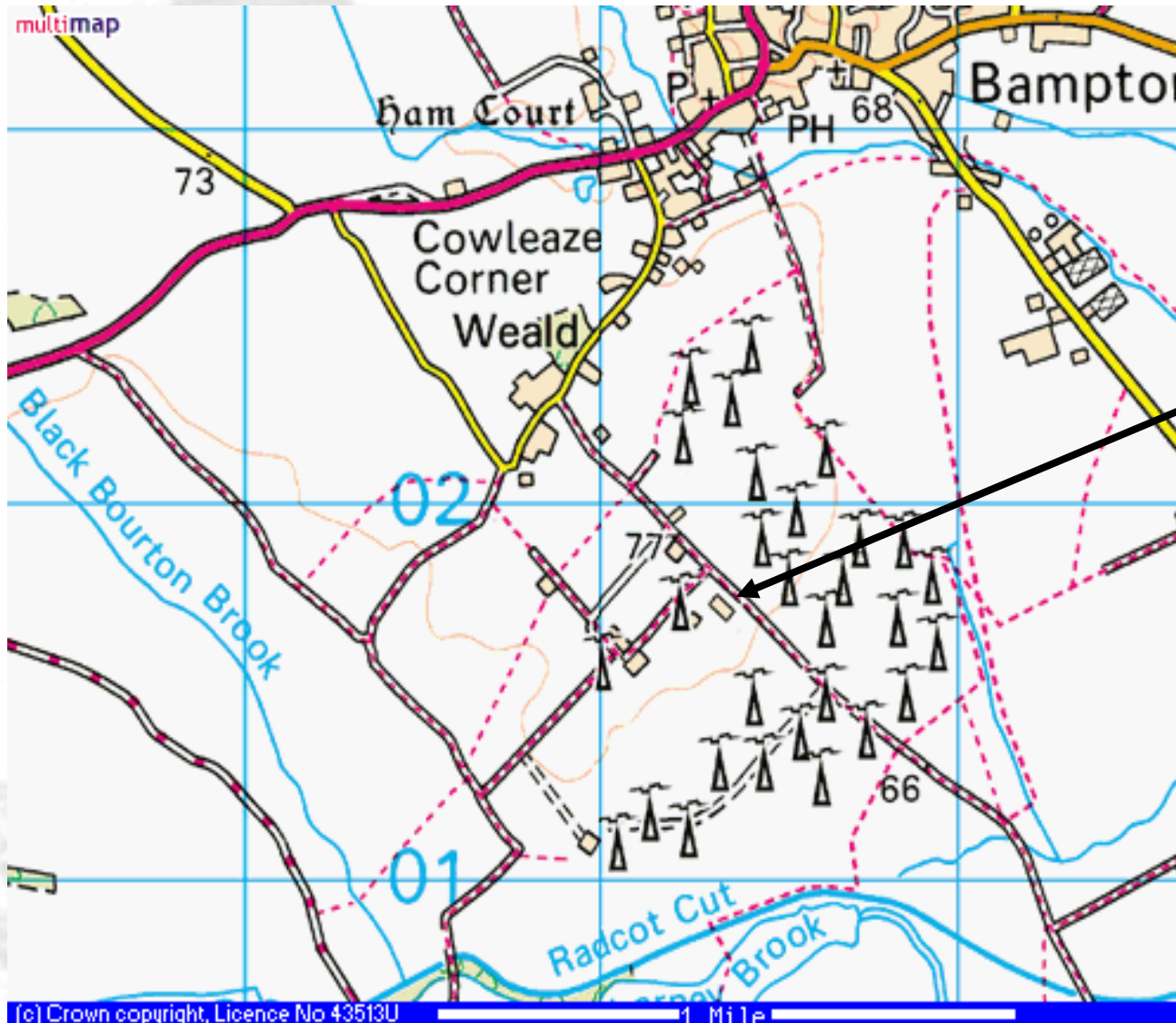
Station Callsign JAJA

Other stations.

- Aldershot
- Kidderminster
- Windmill Hill
- Beaconsfield
- Oakhanger



Position of Receiver Hall from 1943/1944



Here



Station callsign JAJA Map ref: - 51.42.8N 01.32.9W Called Weald Camp. 1939 to 1969

There is considerable evidence that the Saxons and the Romans were here in Bampton first and particularly on this site. See the Roman coins of the 4th Century on page 28. The Royal Corps of Signals arrived much later in Bampton during 1939. Mrs Freda Bradley writes in her book:-

“Bampton. The Way it Was”.

The Royal Signals were the first soldiers, billeted in barns and private houses all over Bampton, whilst the Radio Station and the camp was built. At that time, Fox Close was just being built. Six houses had been let and two had just been completed, so the army took those over for the duration

51.43.768 N 01.52.453W.

Later they were billeted in huts which were located at the end of New Road in Bampton. 51.43.761 N 01.32.776 W. They stayed there and the huts finally were removed and used at the camp in 1946. The work was, according to one report supervised by Mr. Jack Lawrence, who was Clerk of Works for the camp. He lived in Bampton with his daughter Barbara at Bowling Green Close.

We have a hand written note from Mr. George Collins, resident and retired farmer in Bampton that he acquired the land in 1943 and it was not until after he had acquired it, that he found that there was a War Office requisition in force on the land. As it was war time, the unfortunate Mr. Collins had no option but to accept the fact and carry on farming around the unit based on his land. It is probably around this time that the camp was established.

The unit established was un-doubtedly the E Troop War Office Signal Regiment with their Headquarters at what was called “The Citadel” or as “The Pit” at Whitehall, London. The purpose of the station was to establish communications with our far flung armies throughout the world. The communications were, by today’s standards, extremely basic. It was Morse sent at high speed. A number of the units abroad were known as High Speed Morse units. For instance the station in Ceylon was “Ceylon High Speed Wireless.”

The Royal Corps of Signals, as they were known at this time, was here to receive these signals transmitted by other Royal Signals and Commonwealth Stations. The data received was electronically translated and the information received was passed on to Whitehall.



Why Bampton?

■ Probabilities are: -

Initially

- * Close To R.A.F. Brize Norton for support
- * Close to major Roads to London

Later

- * The establishment in 1943/44 was probably chosen because of the open fields and good earth qualities.



What were they doing 1939-43?

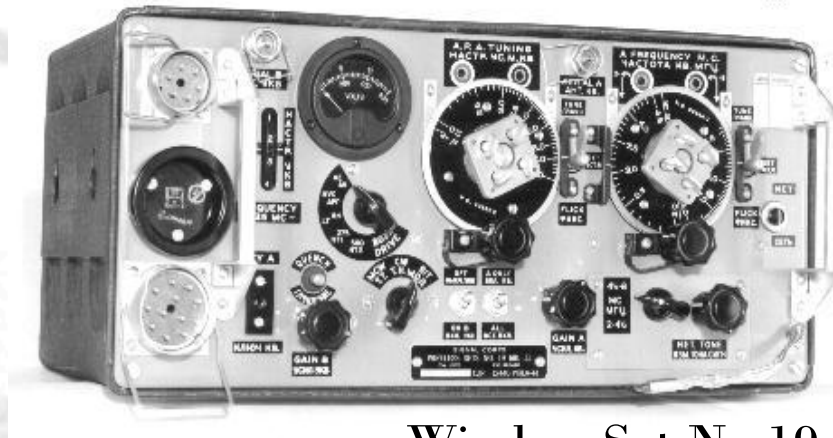
For *certain*, we do not know.

They were, certainly, using radio equipment and aerials were erected in the fields close to the houses. Receiving signals, passing them on by DR, Radio and Line transmission.



R107 Receiver.

WS 19can l.meulstee@wxs.nl



Wireless Set No 19



Changing commands

- Prior to 1939 the Military used Civilian systems - the GPO and Cable and Wireless
- Until 1941 War Office Signals Regiment was a collection of detachments. Bampton being one, others were Kidderminster, Oakhanger, Aldershot, Windmill Hill and Beaconsfield. Fed by Despatch riders, or telephone.
- In 1941 War Office Signals was formed to overcome this cumbersome method of communication. In 1943/44 two Receiver Stations and two Transmitter stations were brought together. Bampton being the primary Receiver station while Oakhanger became the standby and controlled minor links. Droitwich and Pirbright served similar roles on the Transmit side. It was the beginning of the new "ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN" formed pre 1939.
- In 1952 WOSR had to be split in two because it had grown too large in complexity and so we saw Number 1 Regiment handling traffic and Number 2 Regiment concerning themselves with the wireless stations and engineering. We saw the opening of the first Tape Relay Station at Boddington with War Office Signal Office becoming no more than a tributary and closing as COMCAN (Commonwealth Communications Army Network) was formed and took over the entire working of the "CHAIN".
- Its Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. W. (Wally) Hammond MBE
- 14th Signal Regiment was formed in 1959 and Bampton became 3 Squadron. This situation remained until 1977 when it was reformed as 14th SIGNAL REGIMENT (Electronic Warfare)



The Royal Signals Radio Receiving Station Bampton Oxfordshire 1943-1944



51.42.8N 01.32.9W SW. Weald

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Officers Commanding at Bampton

Prior 1945 Major Monty Garrard
1946 Major Arthur Cropp
1950 Capt. M. R. Ridler
1952 Capt. ? Strong
1954 Major Bob Petty TA
1957 Major Les. Dutton
1960 Major Eric Fox
1967 Major M. Bamber
1969 Major L. W. Prescott

These Officers were at Bampton at the times stated, but duration cannot be confirmed



Equipment in use

The type of equipment they would have been using up until 1945 is shrouded by history, but it is quite likely that the Receivers would have been Marconi CR100s and quite possible RCA AR88s supplied later under the Lease Lend Act of America. They would have also used Creed undulators; these were machines which would print Morse code in a square shaped waveform on to paper, about half inch wide, and then read by a competent wireless operator. Many of the operators and instrument mechanics passing through were trained as Boys at Catterick, Yorkshire and it is with their considerable help that most of this history has come about. (Germany was not the only Army to have boy Soldiers)

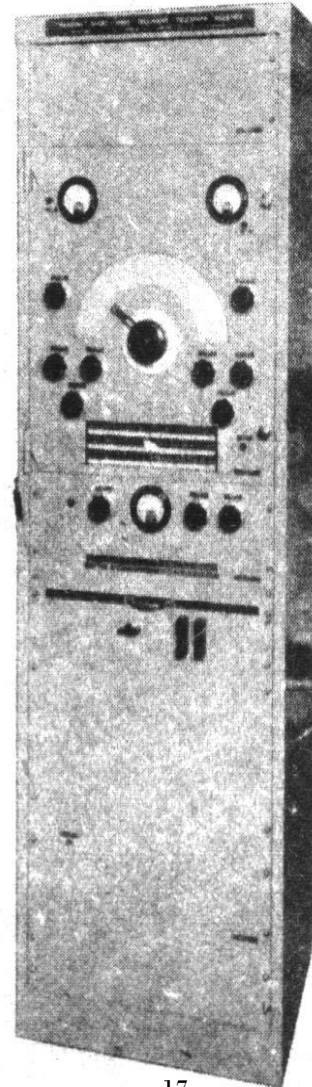
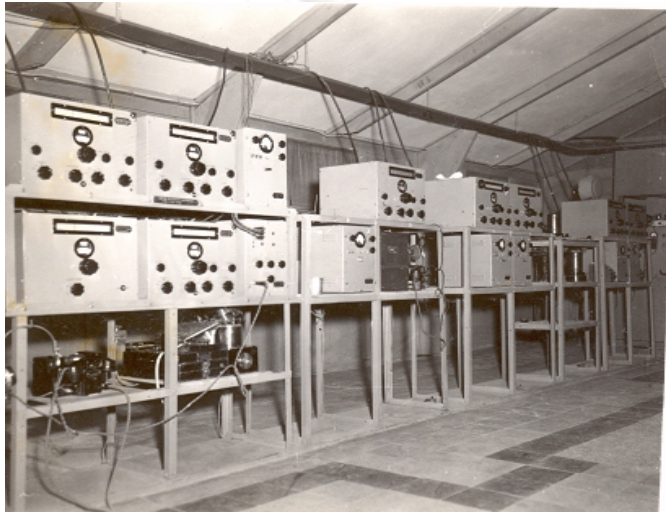
Subsequently the CR100s were dropped as individual receivers and three were modified and mounted in tall cabinets together with one other unit, common to all three. The fourth unit controlled the frequency on which they operated. They were called triple diversity R211 receivers; each receiver had a separate aerial which improved communications considerably. The R211 was manufactured by The Marconi Company. At the same time the Standard Telephone Company produced their version which was known as the R212. Again this was a triple diversity receiver.

Frequencies were checked with another piece of equipment manufactured in the United States of America called the BC221 wavemeter. This served as a very accurate frequency checker even years after WWII had ended and there were quite a number of variants. The transmitters used abroad at this time by the Royal Signals would have been Marconi SWB 8 and SWB 11s* for long haul transmissions. 4 and 10 K/watt transmitters. U.S. Hallicrafters BC610 transmitters and RCA 4331 were used for short haul.

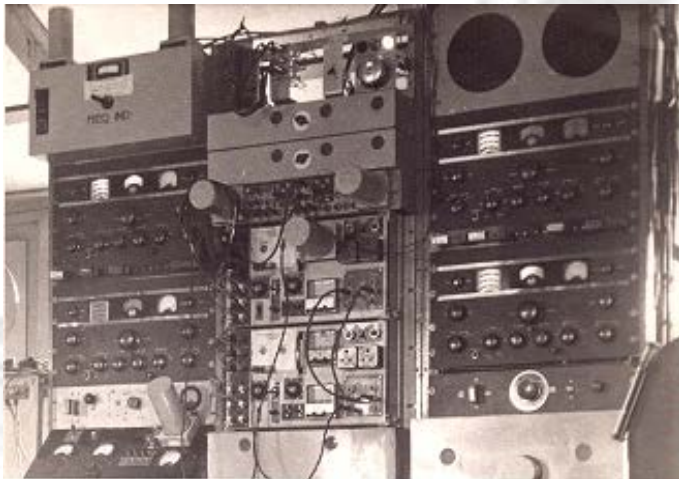
*SWB. From the Marconi Short Wave Beam system established 1927.



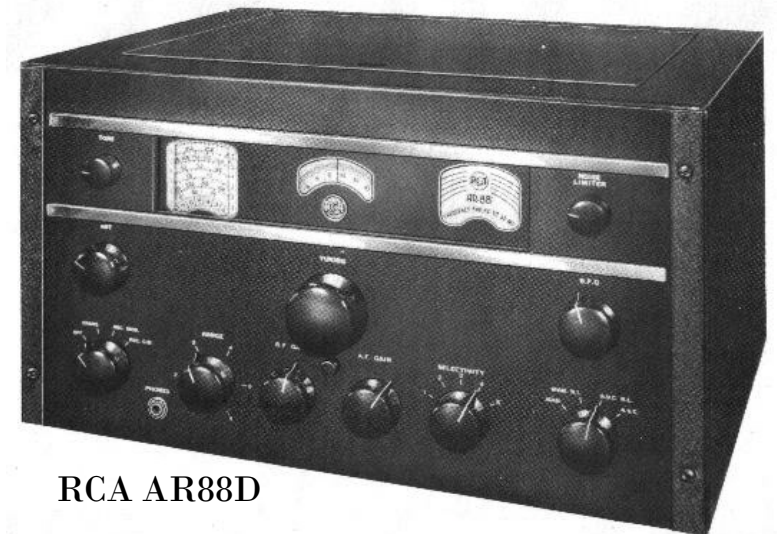
From Desktop to Rack-mounted & Diversity



Marconi CR100

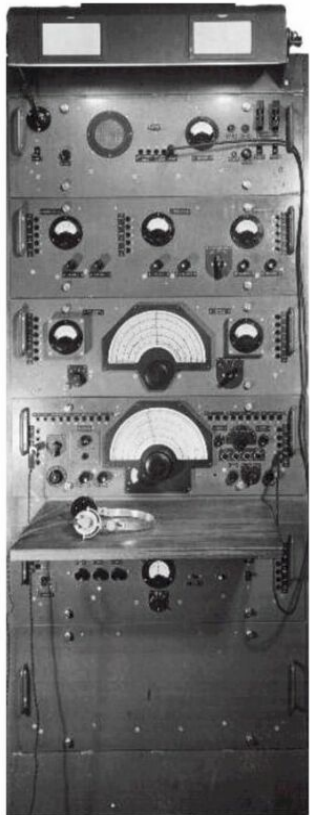


Marconi RC67

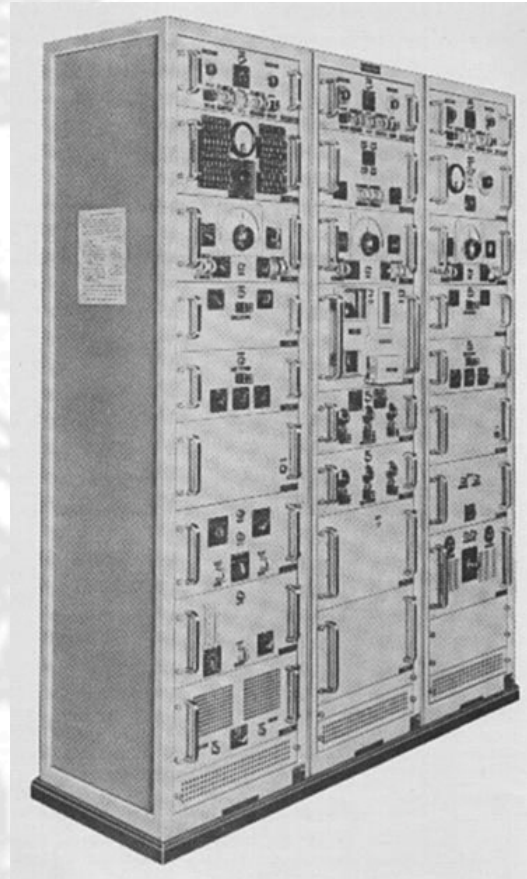


RCA AR88D

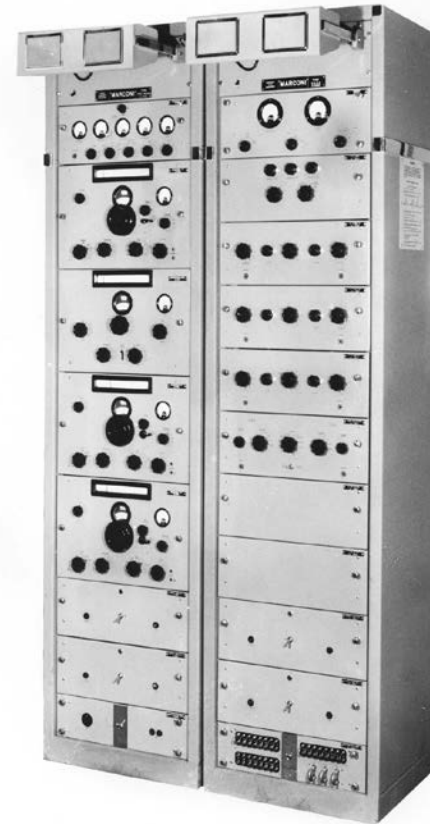
Early Diversity Receivers



STC R201



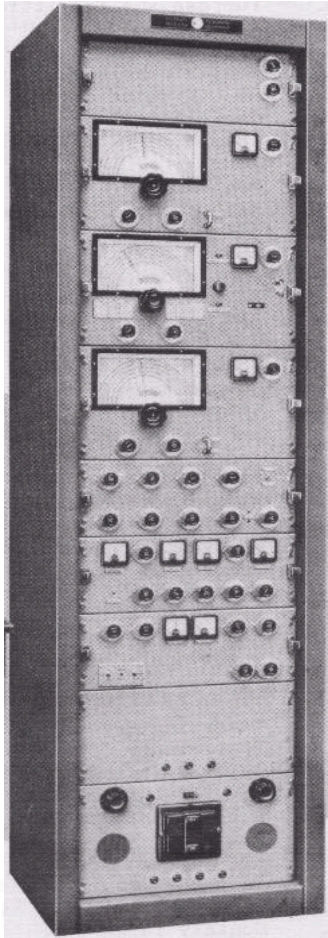
STC R212



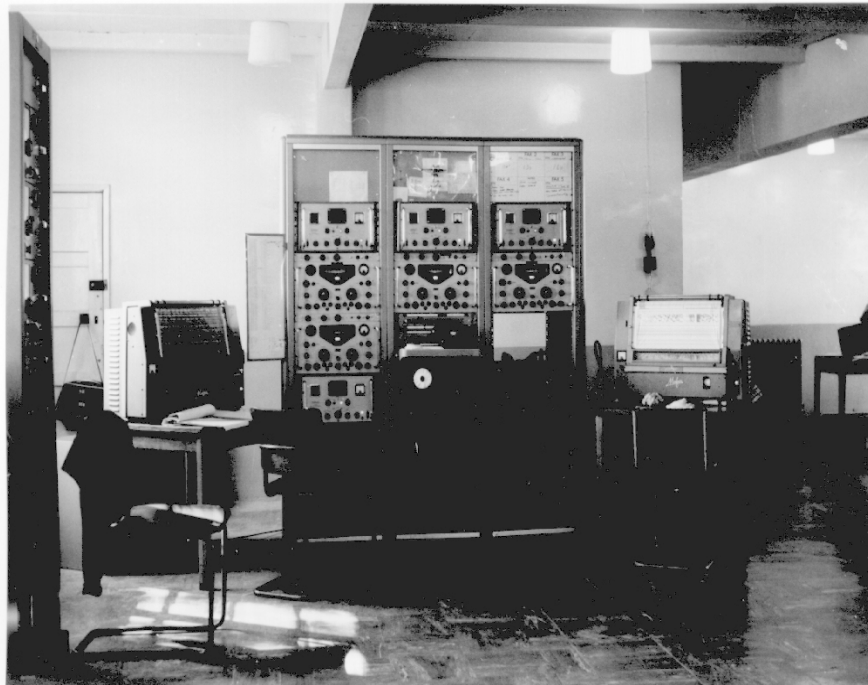
Marconi R211



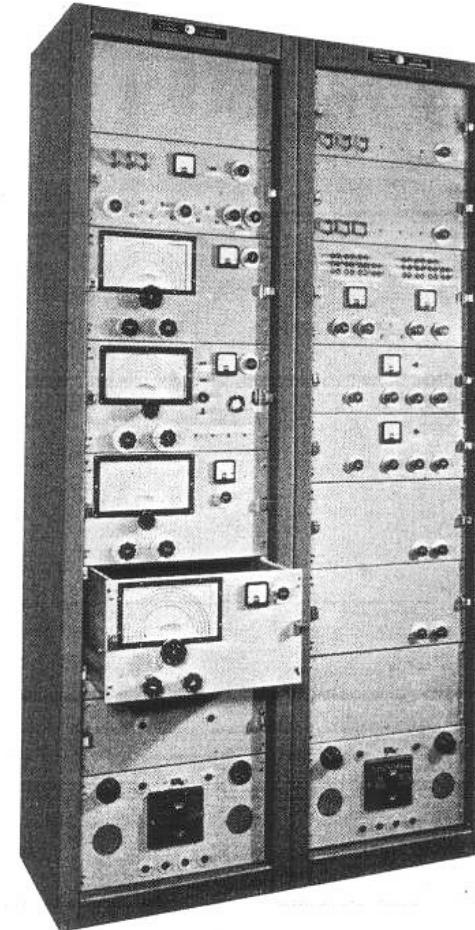
Later Diversity Receivers



Marconi R217



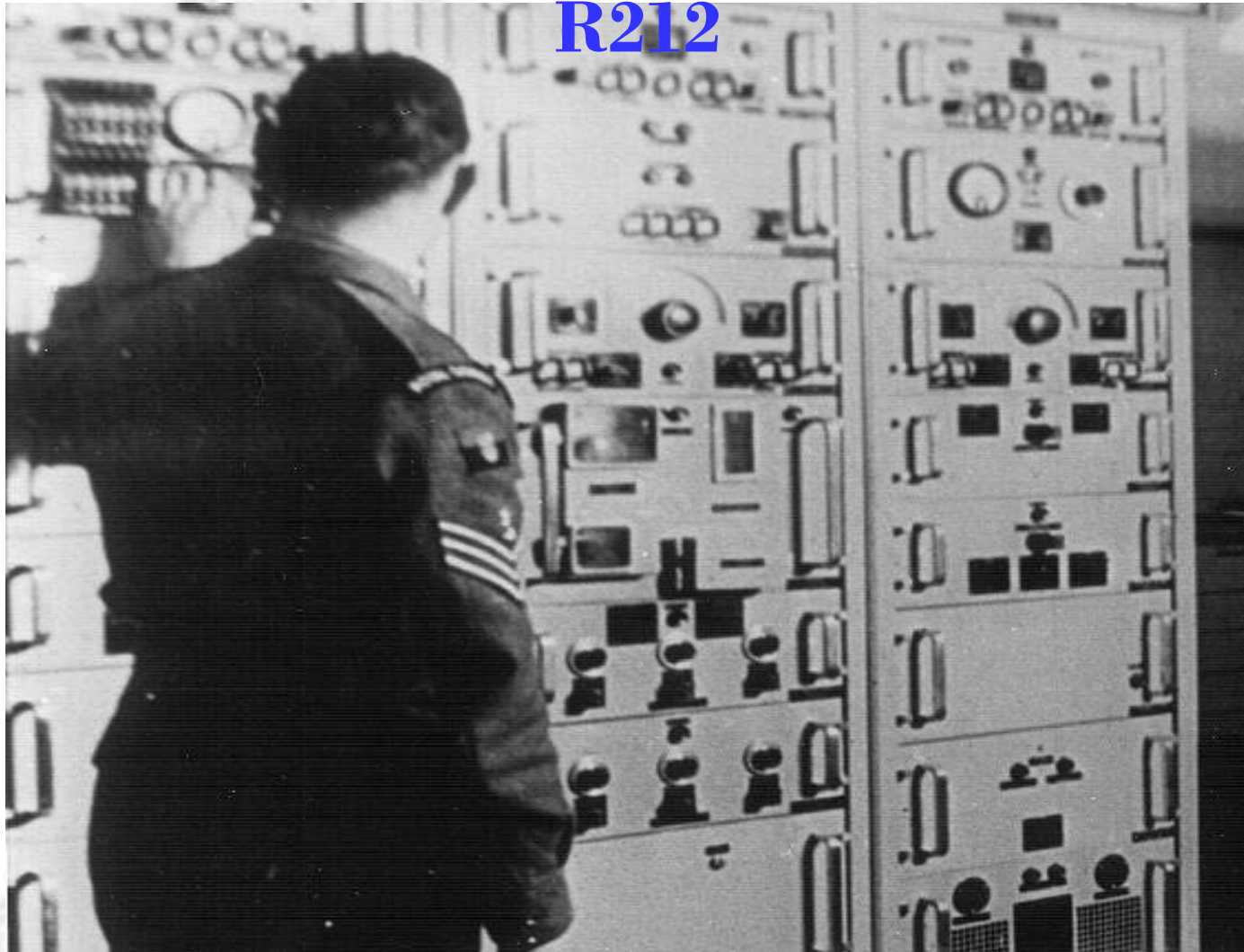
Three racks of RACAL RA17 in diversity



Marconi R235



Staff Sergeant R. Evans Tuning an R212



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Frequency Meter BC221



The most widely used
frequency meter
during WWII





The Log Periodic Antenna is broadband and a very good back to front ratio



This picture gives some idea of the size of the centre support when it was lowered for maintenance

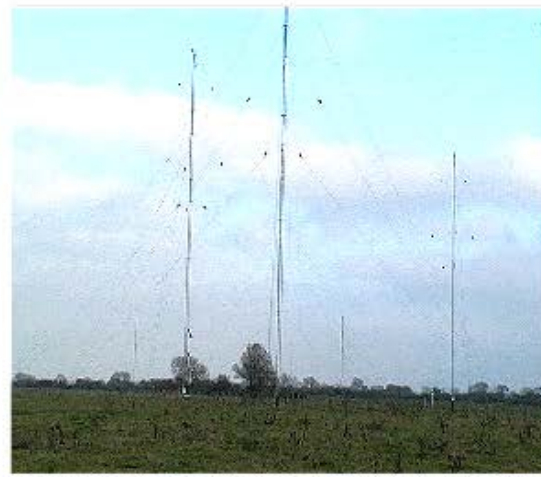


One end of a Triple Curtain Rhombic mast mounted. The triple connection is visible to the right of this mast

Aerial Systems



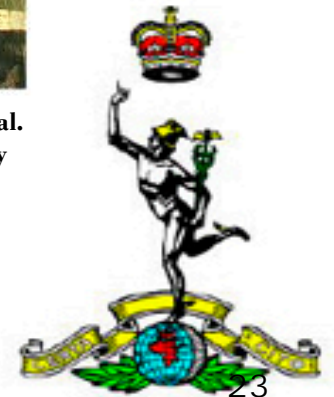
The L P in the background. With the Bunker built post '69. The Royal Signals Hall to the right. Vertical antennae for RDF foreground.



Lattice masts. These supported the highly directional Rhombic Aerials and superseded the old 97 ft tubular.



Magnetic Loop Aerials. Compact and directional. Useful for small spaces and low maintenance by the RAF



Caged for Bandwidth



A view of the aerial fields from the top of one of the 101-foot towers. You are looking at one end of a Cage Dipole, an omi directional aerial. Two of the aerial crew are at the top of the mast. This was a voluntary job and no individual was ordered to the top.



Aerials and The “Line Party”

Without aerials you would not have radio signals and at Bampton there was a dedicated team to attend to them. In the very early days the aerial team was a collection of operators, off duty from the receiver hall, general duty soldiers and some men even came down from the London Head Quarters. On page nine in “Memories of Bampton” Geoff Oakley makes reference to this. Later, this team as his says, became known as the “Line Party”.

George Armatage of Durham writes of Bampton in his letter dated 03/4/05

“I was sent there as a member of a work party from War Office signals in the summer of 1947. Our job was to erect several 60-foot aerials, which meant digging holes for the support plates and then constructing and raising aerials.”

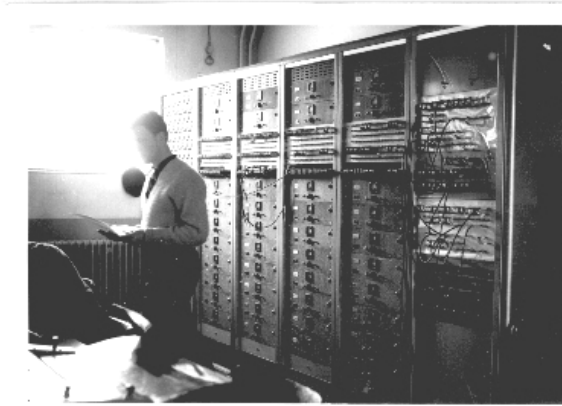
Operators on “week off” still worked with the Line Party up until the closure in 1969. It was a good relief from shift duties where an operator was on duty in the hall for eight hours on and twelve hours off. This would continue for three weeks with the fourth being assigned to outside duties. It was also good training for the operators as they would learn that an aerial was not just a “lump of wire” hung between a couple of poles.

Some types of aerials used at Bampton are shown on the previous page and the signals from these were carried to the Receiver hall via a coaxial cable. The most common form of coaxial line consists of either a solid, or stranded-wire inner conductor, surrounded by a polyethylene dielectric. Copper braid is woven over the dielectric to form the outer conductor and a waterproof vinyl covering is placed on top of the braid. However, this type of cable has a substantial loss of signal over long lengths likely to be found in aerial fields. Air insulated cables offer a better choice but are less flexible and more costly. The conductor is held centrally with the outer conductor by either insulating “beads” or a polyethylene helix. Other cables use lead or aluminium outer conductors. The large helix type cables, which became standard in later years, had nitrogen forced into the cable to prevent moisture entering. This pressure could also be monitored by a meter which would indicate any loss of gas from the cable should it become damaged.

Considerable information is available from various sources on this particular subject.



Aerial Patch Panels



The two pictures above are of the aerial room. On the left of the racks you can see the pressure gauges. There was one for each cable with spares and each cable had its own wideband 1-30Mhz Signal Amplifier. There are 40 of these at 10 per rack to the right of the gauges. Each amplifier was finally terminated into the rack on the extreme right where it could be “patched” to the appropriate receiver. Below the patching panel can be seen, although not clearly, an RCA AR88 Receiver used for monitoring purposes.



In 1954 during the command of Major Petty it was considered that one aspect of camp life which could be improved was that of Hobbies and sports. Wednesday afternoon on camp was always considered to be Sports afternoon, but not everyone could play football or cricket, hockey or tennis. So other activities were brought in such as fishing, archaeology, canoeing and running. These four additional activities took little organising as fishing and canoeing could be accommodated close by at the Thames. Archaeology: the camp was sitting on a Saxon to Roman site. Running: there were acres of fields and country lanes surrounding the camp.

All these activities proved to be accommodating to most of the camp personnel and were financed by each person on camp providing a sum from his pay each month to the PRI Fund. (PRI was Paymaster Regimental Institute). Sounds very important but it meant it was an audited fund and so quite secure against fraud.

To these activities were added Photography, Amateur Radio, Model work and even a Pigeon loft for the two pigeon fanciers on camp.

These were supported activities and ones which could be carried out during the winter nights, or summer for that matter. These pursuits were available to all personnel.

Football, Hockey, Fishing, Cricket, Tennis, Archaeology, Canoeing, Running, Photography, Amateur Radio, Modelling, Keeping Pigeons. A pretty formidable selection of activities to pursue and have costs paid for at around two shilling and sixpence per month (12½p).

Sufficient funds were raised, with the aid of the Nuffield Trust to buy a Mini Bus. This was used to tow the canoes to the river, or bring the local girls to the camp for camp dances held every few months.

In 1959 three canoe teams were entered in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, winning for the camp the Trophy for lightweight folding canoe class.



How they spent their spare time



Inside G3LPC



Maurice Caplin & Ray Evans



Looking down on the Lighthouse at Lundy Island

Amateur Radio

The Camp had its own Amateur Radio Club G3LPC. There were three Licensed Radio Amateurs on camp and many interested others involved in building a small transmitter and erecting and testing special aerials. Licensed "Hams" G3LQC, G3INE, G3UOU.

Recorded in the book 'Army Communications'

GB3LPC... ON LUNDY

W/o R.C. Evans of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Club stationed at Banford, Oxon, recently led a party to Lundy Island which lies about 20 miles from the North Devon coast.

No previous amateur station has been set up there although it appears to have ideal conditions being about 3½ miles long and lying on a NW to SE line in the Bristol Channel. The station was set up at the Old Lighthouse some 500 feet above sea level.

The equipment included a Racal RA17 and odd pieces like 2 wartime lendlease U.S. generators. The aerial was a joke among the assembled hams, consisting of a simple piece of wire 90 feet long, dropped from the top of the lighthouse. Yet they worked the 80 metre band with some success obtaining exceptional results from Aberdeen and Dublin.

Four teleprinter contacts were made to the Guadeloupe Islands, New York, Detroit and Pennsylvania. Contact by SSB, AM and R/T were made with 70 countries inclusive of 33 of the American States and 11 of the 13 Russian States.

The expedition put in 136 continuous hours, making a total of 520 contacts, the best being 18 contacts in one hour.

W/o Evans states, "The RA17 performed as I knew it would. It was loaded and un-loaded sixteen times throughout the expedition and transported on the back of a farm trailer up 500 feet of cliff road. In spite of this, the set gave no trouble at all and performed a first class job..."

Top: The Special Lundy Exhibition card.
Centre: Loading the RA17 on the "Lundy Gannet" at Bideford Old Town Quay.
Bottom: Cpl. Steven Graham (G3UOU) on watch.

Extract from the RACAL company magazine "The Grapevine" Spring 1966

27



Ray Evans operating G3LPC



Tower removed from Windmill Farm, Bampton for use as aerial mast



W01 Ray Evans G3LQC & Sgt. Bob Conway G3INE operating GB3LPC on Lundy Island



The Romans were here

Archaeology



Immediately above shows the Resistivity Meter being set up prior to a survey of the area. This instrument was designed/built in the Station Workshops by Ray Evans. Right:- Geoff Williams of the Met Office using the resistivity meter. Top right, Ray Evans and Geoff Williams preparing the site. Bottom left digging are Mr. Harrison, wife and son, Cole, Martin and Joan. (The names on the back of the photo). In the hole with measuring stick is Martin.

Seven coins found in and around the camp are shown and the small coin in the middle at the bottom is embossed with Romulus and Remus feeding from a female wolf. Details of this Roman story can be found on the internet.

Many other items were found including a beautiful bronze brooch of a Dolphin, many pots were reconstructed but seem to have vanished around the time of the handover to the RAF in 1969. It may be they were handed over to the Ashmoleum in Oxford.



Find Confirmation Documents

OXFORDSHIRE C.C. DEPT. OF MUSEUM SERVICES : FIELD DEPARTMENT				P.R.N. 4243	Scope
Period Romano-British	Item Pottery incl. samian ware; animal bones; stone loomweight; iron nails	Form Classification Finds only		C	
O.S. 6" SP.30.SW	25"	Parish Bampton	Map Reference SP.31270175	District West Oxon.	
Site Location SE of Weald			Condition Excavated		
Remarks			Authorities		
1. Trial excavations by G. Williams, 1966, in area close to SE perimeter of camp. No significant structural features found, site appears to be beyond margins of settlement. Finds incl. fragm. of mortarium, few minute sherds of samian, & small abraded grey, black & red wares of C.1-4 AD.; also drilled stone loomweight, 2 nails, 2 nailheads & animal bones.			1. Royal Signals Archaeol. Club Report (1967) 1-6 Oxoniensia XXXI (1966) 152		
2. Further R-B pottery found 1959-62 in unstratified deposits immediately E. of 1966 excavation, see PRN 1528			2. RSAC Report (1967) 7-11 Revised C.J. Bond, Oct. 1983		
For I.A. pottery from 1966 excav. see PRN. 4244					
Present Location (if object) O.C.C.M. (plastic bags nos. A2-4, A6, A8, B1)			Museum A.P. No's. ✓		

OXFORDSHIRE C.C. DEPT. OF MUSEUM SERVICES : FIELD DEPARTMENT				P.R.N. [redacted]	Scope
Period Iron Age	Item Pottery	Form Classification Finds only		S	
O.S. 6" SP.30.SW	25"	Parish Bampton	Map Reference SP.31270175	District West Oxon.	
Site Location SE of Weald			Condition		
Remarks			Authorities		
1. Sherd of I.A. 'C' pottery found during excavn. by Royal Signals Archaeol. Club, 1966			1. Royal Signals Archaeol. Club Report (1967) p.2		
2. Small Belgic sherd			2. Oxoniensia XXXI (1966) 152 Revised C.J. Bond, Oct. 1983		
For excavation of R-B material from site see PRN. 4243					
Present Location (if object) O.C.C.M. 'A1 bag'			Museum A.P. No's. ✓		

OXFORDSHIRE C.C. DEPT. OF MUSEUM SERVICES : FIELD DEPARTMENT				P.R.N. 1528	Scope
Period Romano-British	Item Pottery, coin	Form Classification Finds only		S	
O.S. 6" SP.30.SW	25"	Parish Bampton	Map Reference Centred SP.31450166	District West Oxon.	
Site Location SE of Weald			Condition	Nav No. SP30 SW5	
Remarks			Authorities		
1. Sherds of C.2 R-B coarse wares found on spoil-heaps of foundation trenches for pylons SE of Weald, SP.314016			1. Oxoniensia XXIII (1959) 130 2. SP.30.SW.5 O.S. Record Card a) Correspondence, Mrs D. Wise,		
2. Grid ref. refined to SP.31450166			11.1.64, 10.2.64		
a) Unofficial excavation by men from nearby army camp turned up Ro. pottery, incl. an almost complete amphora; coin bearing figures of Romulus, Remus & the wolf also found.			Revised C.J. Bond, Oct. 1983 3) Rec 6" (Amen undated).		
For nearby site excavated 1966, see PRN. 4243					
3) Spk on-line from welded pipe source, form decided by G.W. 18.12.00					
Present Location (if object) Ashm. Mus. 1957.67			Museum A.P. No's. ✓		

OXFORD CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM : FIELD DEPARTMENT : PRIMARY RECORD CARD.				No. 2572	Scope
Period DATE UNKNOWN	Item 2 IRON KNIVES	Form Classification FINDS ONLY		S	
O.S. 6" SP 30 SW	25"	50"	Parish BAMPTON	Map Reference Aven Centred SP 312019.	County W. OXON.
Remarks			Authorities		
1/ 2 iron knives, one badly broken up found during excavation for the footings of 2 houses by G. Williams at Bampton Signal Station. About 1 metre down and not in association with any other artefacts a date also notated.			1/ info: C.J. Williams. 27/9/73		
Send for Conservation 27/9/73					
Present Location (if object) O.C.C.M. Coll 82.172			A. P. Nos.		
Owner and Address			Mus. Neg. Nos. ✓		

How about, Paddle your own canoe?

Canoeing

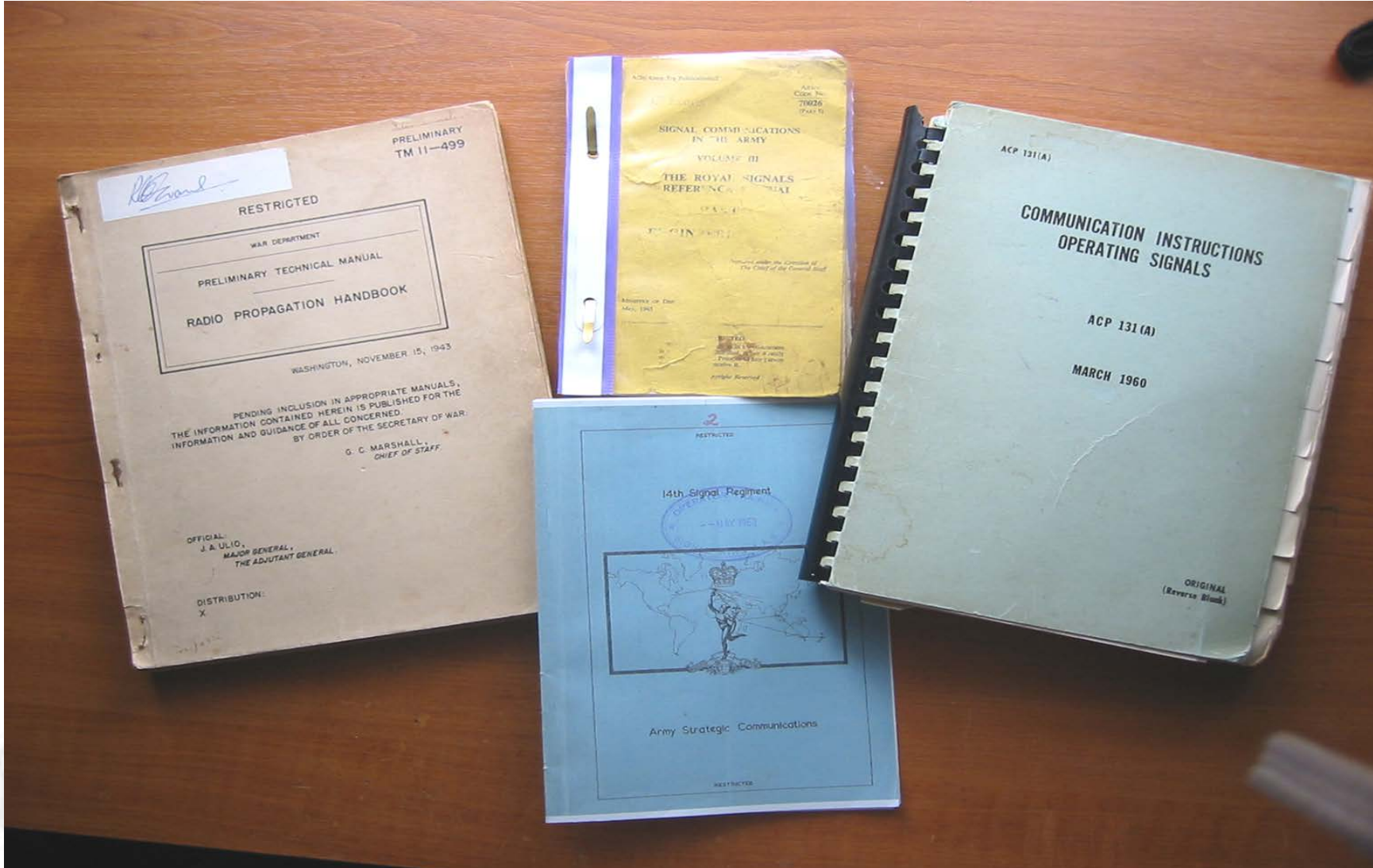
All the canoes were built on camp by those serving there. The canoes in the bottom two pictures were of ply wood frames and covered with canvas.

The picture above shows the camp minibus outside the Receiver Hall and two all wood canoes built using laminate techniques.

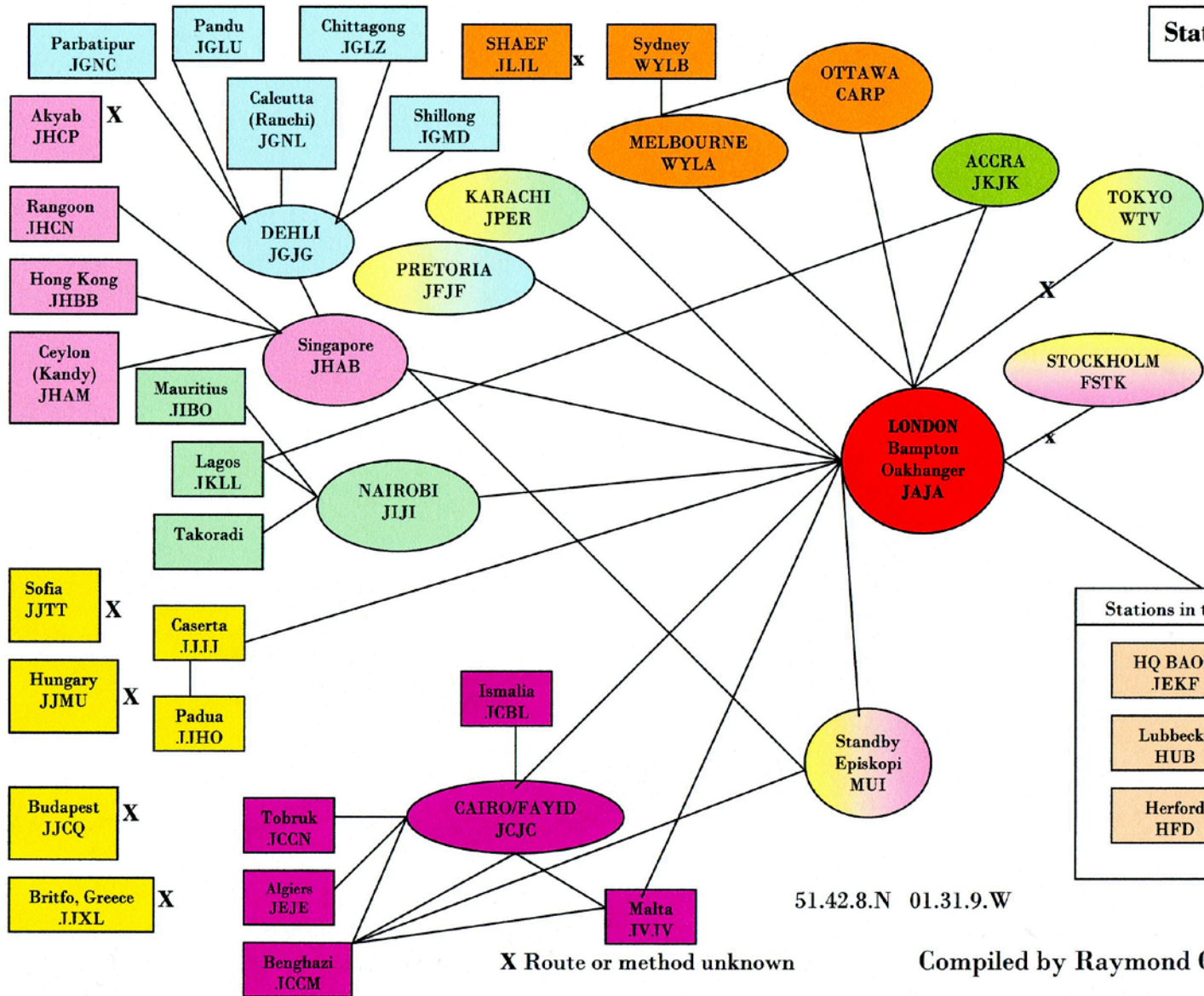
The steerable rudder was an addition which helped the Squadron team to win the Devizes to Westminster race in 1963. The rudder was designed by WO1 Ray Evans and can be seen in this picture taken just before the race.



Rules and Regulations



Station Networks 1939 to 1969



The information given in this chart indicates the stations that were active during the period 1939 to 69. To actually say when these circuits were open and closed is almost impossible, since the list has been put together by several people and a lot depends on memory in some cases 60+ years on. Those who have contributed served during this period in the Royal Signals and were stationed at more than one station shown on this chart.

They are:- Don Herring Regular Army
 Ken Brown " "
 Ray Evans " "
 Ray Webb " "
 Ron Pearsall " "
 Bill Barbone 1943 - 1948

Stations in the box linked to London by wire

HQ BAOR IEKF	Bet For Trieste JJAG
Lubbecke HUB	Vienna MYUV
Herford HFD	Hamburg JEVY

51.42.8.N 01.31.9.W

X Route or method unknown

Compiled by Raymond C. Evans 18.10.2005





Tests carried out at Bampton:

From time to time various tests would be carried out at Bampton. One particular test was to establish the feasibility of a VHF link to the transmitter station at Droitwich, in Worcestershire. The equipment used for this work (circa 1958) was the U.S. Army AN/TRC equipment operating, in this case, above 100 Mhz voice. The photo shows one of similar size and shape; it cannot be definitely established to be the actual equipment.

The antenna used was a three element adjustable Yagi which was included with the station kit. The tests were successful and Communications were established both ways. At the same time other establishments were carrying out similar tests and it is thought these were intended to replace lines in the event of an emergency. Other tests were, for example, War Office London to Beaconsfield.



Elmendorf-McClellan Ionospheric Sounder Tests

In 1963 tests were carried out with a new form of equipment used for the monitoring of the Ionosphere. The purpose of this was to establish, in real time, Radio Conditions between any two given stations. This would enable the controlling operator to decide the best frequency to use. The whole system was synchronised in time to either one of the Rugby time beacon signals, or WWV the US counterpart. The various layers would be displayed on the display unit (in the centre of the picture) with frequency along the “x” axis and with the layers indicated on the “y” axis. The whole equipment was manufactured by ‘Granger Associates’ and the research was sponsored by the US Air Force.



Fred Orr writes: May 18. 2005

“I took over the TX Site at Paramali from John Gilbert in 1963. I do recall some form of a Singapore Trial, I thought it was to test out the new “ionosphere sounder” which was to replace HUFs, MUFs and PUFs for frequency prediction.”



Other tests which may well have involved Bampton

The Benghazi link from Episkopi [Cyprus] is established in an e-mail from Bob Bradrick, a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and who is living in New Zealand. Call ZL2MUI. He writes. "I was at Episkopi 1957 to 1959. I closed the Benghazi link circa 1959. Episkopi call was MUI."

This is mentioned for two reasons. One, that in all the net charts which have come to light, at the time of writing only one shows Episkopi as a station included in the Network. And two, Quarterly Newsletter No3 January 1961 of "The Commonwealth Communications Army Network (COMCAN)" makes the following report regarding Episkopi and communications between it and the UK. "As Bampton was the only receiver station in operation at this time it must be assumed that the station was responsible for the UK end."

This report was provided by the School of Signals, Blandford. It reads:-

REPORT OF TESTS OF A RADIO CIRCUIT BETWEEN CYPRUS AND SINGAPORE

**By
COMCAN CO-ORD**

A reliable and efficient radio path which would provide multi-channel operation directly between the UK and SINGAPORE cannot be obtained, due to in the main to absorption and beam scattering which takes place in the ionosphere. For these reasons COMCAN communications between the UK and SINGAPORE, MALAYA, HONG KONG, AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND are routed through a relay station at NAIROBI.

This means that all these important communication links depend entirely on two circuits terminating in NAIROBI which in common with COMCAN circuits are liable to interruption.

An alternative routing is therefore required and consideration was given to a possible circuit between CYPRUS and SINGAPORE.

With this circuit full advantage could be taken of the existing highly reliable circuit between the UK and CYPRUS.

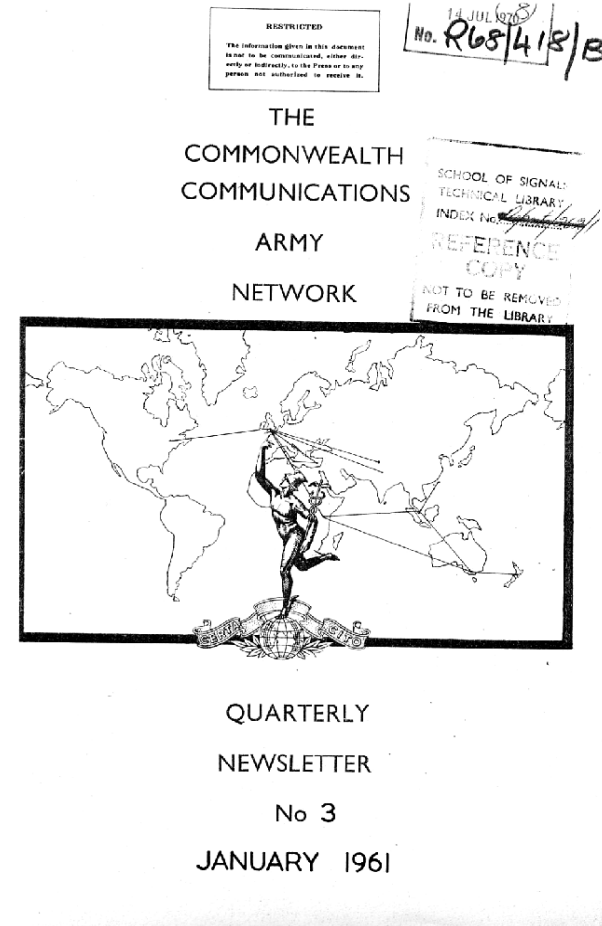


Continued

With this object in view, The Radio Research Branch of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was asked to advise on the Radio propagation path between CYPRUS and SINGAPORE. A most encouraging report, prepared by F.KIFT, AMIEE, was received and as a result tests of the circuit were carried out between 22nd Aug 1960 and 19th September 1960. During the four weeks of the tests, both SSB and FSK methods of operation were used. The average efficiency obtained, after 24 hours continuous operation throughout the period, was approximately 80%. In the light of the following factors this is considered to be outstanding.

- (a) This test circuit was hitherto untried
- (b) Some new frequencies were used on which interference from other stations was experienced
- (c) The rhombic aerials used were not at ideal heights or correct bearings
- (d) The tests were conducted without capital expense

It is fair to conclude that higher efficiencies could be obtained is a result of experience if the circuit became a permanent feature of COMCAN.



More on Cyprus

Prior to the opening of Episkopi, communications were handled at Nicosia. An account by Maj. R.A Webb Rtd. goes as follows.

“There was a flare up in Fayid – Nasser was stretching his muscles and as a result of live talks between UK and during the Spring of 1952 a special circuit was set up between Droitwich and Egypt. This was a secure voice circuit. The Military were told to get out of Egypt as soon as possible.

From this time a plan was put into place to install a Station at Episkopi. It’s “build team” was under TOT “Nanny” Goat and because of the worsening political situation in Egypt there was an interim transfer of GHQ Middle East from Fayid to Nicosia before Episkopi was put into service.

So a team consisting of TOT Charles Weech, (then) S/sgt R.A. Webb, Bill Lerigo, Pat Fox-Roberts and seventeen Other ranks of mixed trades moved into Cyprus. This team became a detachment of 3 GHQ Signals, not accommodated by them but they were housed in Wolseley Barracks Nicosia.

“The requirement was to provide facilities, establish and take over communications from Fayid and allow GHQ Middle East to get out of Fayid as soon as possible. The existing facilities were kept in place until Nicosia was up and able to take over as the Cyprus Signal Troop. The Cypher side of this unit was filled by Dennis Burge. (Author’s note: All except the TOT officers mentioned here were Ex Royal Signals Boys. Again showing the important roll that they had been trained for during the World War II years.)

The Signal Centre was built in Wolseley Barracks using the local electricity supply but with a 27.5 KVA Lister generator as standby. Lines were supplied by Cyprus P&TT. We used 6 channel VF equipment over pairs for keying etc..

The Transmitter site was at Kokkini Trimithia - virgin ground with rock outcrop; we had Royal Engineer assistance drilling stay plates for one rhombic, six dipole – that was four 97-foot adastral masts for the rhombic and four more 66 foot ad astrals suitably positioned to cover for the other circuits. The equipment was – two Golden Arrow* cabins with SWB8s, two cabins with US Built ET 4331s (63 set cabins) and two BC610 cabins.



“Power was provided by four 27.5 KVA Lister generators. Lines were provided by the P and TT. A small wooden hut “local provision” was used to house the VF Equipment and eventually where the duty party worked from.

Receiver site-was located on a disused airfield at Lakatamia – it had two Golden Arrow* cabins with two 15 KVA Lister generators. As the ground was softer there was no trouble with erecting masts. One Rhombic and four dipoles. These were used for circuits to the UK, Fayid and Malta. Again the lines were provided by P&TT and again a separate hut was provided.

•The equipment used here was similar to that in Italy and Egypt and was in some cases working with the Army No 10 set. They were SHF and VHF working and a complex using this equipment was located at Moascar in Egypt. Field Marshall Montgomery praised the 10 set

“Circuits were as follows.

FSK (frequency shift keying) to UK. Malta, two four tone RTTY to Fayid, CW (Morse) to Bahrain and somewhere else in North Africa.

CW Receiving - Operators were in Wolseley Barracks and their TX equipment was located at Kokkini Trimithia.

Canadian FSK adaptors which were very reliable when used in Cyprus.

Fayid Closed in 1955. 15 Signal Regiment was formed in KYKKO Camp West Nicosia adjacent to the airport and the balance of 3 GHQ Signals were absorbed into it.”

(Author’s note: Ray’s home was bombed by EOKA in 1955 and his son Douglas, then aged two, received a shrapnel injury to his arm)



Memories of Bampton by Geoff Oakley

I arrived at E Troop, War Office Signal Regiment, Bampton in March 1946 after completing Royal Signals Boy Apprentice Tradesman training at Catterick as an Operator, Wireless and Keyboard. It is estimated that the full Troop strength was about 50, OC & 2IC, probably 4 senior NCOs, the shift workers and the maintenance and administrative staffs. The Troop consisted of a mixture of soldiers waiting for demob following war service, National Servicemen and a goodly proportion of ex-boys. New arrivals, particularly ex-boys were quickly put to general camp fatigues before being gradually absorbed into the shifts of the Receiver station.

The accommodation conditions were pretty primitive with about 16 of us in a prefabricated single skin hut. There was no such luxury as double glazing and the central heating consisted of one coke burning stove in the centre of the hut. A 3-foot wide strip of coir matting up the centre of the hut "covered" the bare concrete floors. We were issued with 4 blankets but initially no sheets. Washroom and toilets were about 30 yards away - as was the cookhouse.

A 3-shift/watch system - afternoons, mornings/nights - sleep day was worked. However 3 hours camp fatigues had to be worked on the morning before the afternoon shift. Each shift consisted of a Cpl. Superintendent, a NCO, a technician and about 4 operators. I say about 4 because there were always shortfalls due to other duties, detachments, sickness, courses, leave or other absences.



Our task was to receive and continually fine tune the Army Wireless Chain HF radio receivers for the reception of primarily high speed Morse signals from around the world and to pass the incoming signal down to the War Office Signal Centre (The Pit) in Whitehall. Triple diversity receivers R211 were used for the high speed Morse circuits from Cairo (JCJC) (later: Fayid then Cyprus), Singapore (JHAB), Ceylon, Delhi, Karachi, Melbourne and Ottawa. Back up H.F Radio circuits to the regular line facilities were also available and routinely tested/worked from Trieste [Italy], Klagenfurt (Austria) and Bad Oyenhausen (Germany). AR88 HF receivers were used to receive the hand speed morse signals from Accra (JIJI) and Nairobi (JKJK). Back up hand speed Morse circuits were also available and regularly tested from the 6 UK Home Commands.

Trials were often instituted to assess the feasibility of working over a direct East - West route from Hong Kong and later, Korea, usually with limited success. The incoming signals were transferred to Whitehall using Multi Channel Voice Frequency Telegraph (MCVFT) equipment.

The Bampton receiver hall when I arrived was lined down one side with the R201 receivers which were approximately 6 feet high, 2 feet wide and 1½ foot deep. At the side of each R201 was a cabinet with a telephone to give direct contact to the operator on the receiving bench in the War Office. An aerial patch cabinet was in the centre of the line of receivers. Printing reperforators and undulators were readily available to provide a visual indicator of the standard of the circuit. On the other side of the hall was a very large Superintendent's desk (for a Cpl !), but very useful for sleeping during quiet periods, a rack of AR.88s for the hand speed Morse circuits and a series of equipments for frequency measuring.



For most of the time the effort involved in maintaining communications was predictable. For example we could normally rely on the Cairo circuit being pretty solid but we knew that the Singapore circuit (on 8840K/cs now Khz) although scheduled to open at 1200 hrs would not start coming through until 1400 or 1500hrs and even that would require careful manipulation. During periods of sun spot activity or similar however, our work was cut out to try and bring in satisfactory signals. A series of unofficial Z codes were used to record the signal's standard which required the distant transmit operator to transmit his automatic Morse signals twice and which would be edited by the receiving staff in the War Office, and then the dreaded ZNG - no good for traffic for which we could be called to account.

The fields towards the river from the camp were a forest of masts (72ft & 96ft) 4 of which were required to carry each rhombic aerial (now called antennae). Each circuit was covered by at least 3 rhombics to meet the triple diversity requirement. Mast and aerial maintenance was a very time consuming task, which included the shift workers assisting the permanent aerial staff quite a bit during what free time we had. (Author's note: Later became a line party)

Gradual replacement of the high speed Morse circuits by radio teleprinter (RTTY) using frequency shift keying (FSK) commenced in 1947. The R20I receivers were also gradually superseded by AR88s.

I was fortunate to stay on at Bampton. Promoted L/Cpl in 1947 and Cpl in 1948 I continued in the receiver hall as a shift superintendent and for spells as chief superintendent. Also temporary duties as rations NCO, pay Cpl and periods of detachment on courses and other tasks.



In June 1949 I met the Witney girl who, subsequently, has been my wife for over 50 years. In late 1949 I was moved to the technical stores to introduce full peacetime accounting procedures and was promoted to Sgt in that job in July 1950. After 5 years at Bampton I was posted to Germany in March 1951.

As relatively fit young men, we were keen on sport, primarily football. Mr. Collins the local farmer made sufficient space in one of his fields for us to transform it into a football pitch. Initially we played friendly matches against local villages, primarily Bampton, and then joined the Witney and District league with regular fixtures throughout the season with varying results. For a couple of years the Troop was very successful in the Witney Table Tennis League. Friendly cricket matches were also played with not much success. In our friendly cricket matches we always struggled against the Bampton in-swinging fast bowler (Mike Hiron). Major Colville of Weald Manor offered the use of his tennis court - a suggestion to have one at the camp resulted in self imposed hard labour when our fatigues and even spare time was utilized to break stones and similar as a base for the court.

These were in the days before car ownership. Recreational transport was provided to Witney and Oxford and occasionally Swindon. Numerous tales can be told of missing the returning transport in Witney when we would try to catch the last train and walk from the Bampton and Brize Norton station back to camp or even missing the train and having to walk (or stagger) back along the railway tracks. Other than that, we cycled or if we were flush by taxi. (Mrs. Gering or Savages) *



Our first real contact with the citizens of Bampton was with the very good and kind ladies who, for a couple of hours, two or three evenings a week, provided us with canteen facilities. Fresh sandwiches and home baked cakes were absolutely delightful after Army rations and cooking. Remember that this was in the days of rationing and I don't know how they looked after us so well. Doris (?) Townsend the jolly daughter of the local coal merchant seemed to be the organiser. However my wife was very suspicious when at our wedding reception in October 1951 a card was read out "From the Bampton Girls".

Other local contacts were, of course, in the local hostelries with what little money and time that we had. Each of the following pubs was designated our drinking HQ for a time: New Inn, Talbot, Jubilee, Wheatsheaf, Eagle, Elephant and Castle, Horse Shoes, George & Dragon, Malt Shovel, Lamb and further down the Buckland Road The Swan. We seemed to change quite often - possibly because we were thrown out or kindly asked to leave !

Other memories. I was late returning to a freezing camp after Christmas 1946 leave after a very long journey in atrocious conditions. I was immediately dispatched up the water tower with a paraffin blow lamp and instructed to defrost the tank. Hanging on to the icicle covered framework with one hand trying to defrost the bottom of the tank was completely unsuccessful. In fact early 1947 deteriorated into one of the worst winters of the century. Due to deep snow the camp was completely cut off for nearly a week. We had to clear the road ourselves sufficiently for a vehicle to get down to Weald and then Bampton for essential rations. The snow remained well into April making any movement very difficult. The thaw caused such heavy flooding that from just below the camp down to the river was just like one big lake.



The water tower which I had unsuccessfully tried to defrost between Christmas and the New Year remained frozen for 3 months and the camp had to manage on the one cold water tap (and toilet) in the receiver hall building. Another by-product of the weather conditions was the shortage of coal and coke which were absolutely essential for cooking and what bit of heating we had. A relief coal train had been got through to Bampton and Brize Norton Station for which we could have a couple of wagon loads – provided that we did the loading and unloading ourselves. What a job – with one 3-ton vehicle, a few Army GS shovels and a very few inexperienced coal hauliers. Our clothes were inundated with coal for weeks.

In 1946 we were, apparently, offered 2 large wooden huts from what had been a camp in the village. The usual sting in the tail applied with the proviso, if we wanted them we were required to dismantle, move, re-assemble in the Weald camp and make good the old location. Once again our fatigue and/or spare time were fully utilized. Under the guidance of our civilian carpenter (Mr. Jack Lawrence) we gradually dismantled the huts and moved the parts up to the camp. The job was followed by constructing the foundations and we gradually dismantled the huts and moved the parts up to the camp. This job was followed by constructing the foundations and gradually on to the re-assembly. To cut a long story short or, at least a long construction effort, we finished up with two pretty substantial huts. One was transformed into a hall available for dances with a stage, bar and toilets. The other was divided into 3 separate rooms, one with a snooker table, one reading/writing room and the other I think, was called the educational room! Regular dances were arranged when transport was arranged for local girls.* It had been quite a big, self help undertaking but the result was well used and I think that we all got a sense of satisfaction. We must have done a reasonable building job because when I visited Bampton as a retired Officer with the Defence Communications Network about 1988 the huts were still there.

*(Author:- Later, transport became a mini-bus which was paid for by PRI funds into which all ranks made a contribution. The Railway Station closed in 1962)

End



From Geoffrey Collier 1955-1957

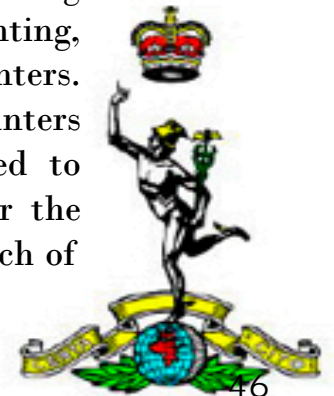
Mellbreak, Pool of Muckhart. Dollar
Clackmannanshire Scotland. FK14 7 JW
Phone 01259781375 gcollier@btintemet.com
5 May 2005 Weald Camp. Bampton

Dear Ray

It was interesting to see that Bampton Signals is no more and is due to return to agricultural land. I was a National Serviceman and I was at Weald camp from August, September, October 1955 to 4 January 1957. The name of the camp changed while I was there from War Office Signals Regiment to UK Comcan Signal Regiment. It was the Receiver station for the Army. Droitwich was the Transmitter station with Boddington being Control. All traffic from us went to Boddington and I assume that messages went from Boddington to Droitwich to be sent all over the world. The rhombic antenna arrays at Bampton were quite impressive. A couple or civvies came up from the village each day. Between them they looked after the gardens, the boiler house and stirred up the contents of the camp sewage plant. Not much of what I'm about to tell you will be material for the Museum, but it may be of interest to you.

The CO for all the time I was there was Major Bob Petty. He was a renowned breeder of Weimaraners and after demob, I saw that he had gained awards at "Crufts". The story was that he had helped someone when he was stationed in Germany and he/she had given him a breeding pair as a thank you". He didn't seem to have much interest in the running of the camp apart from his dogs. He was exceedingly tetchy when bitches were due to give birth and he was reputed to sell pups for £500, which at that time was a prince's ransom. His batman looked after them and he was a red haired Jock, who went under the name of "Doggy Bell".

The camp in my time was totally overstaffed. There were 120 of us on camp. I was a Telegraph Mechanic, trained to maintain teleprinters and switchboards. There was another Tele tech on strength and also a Radio tech. who had persuaded the F0s that he would be better used looking after the teleprinters. I hope that you have been counting, but that makes three people to look after the teleprinters. From memory, there were no more than three teleprinters in the Receiver Hall. These teleprinters were used to monitor traffic from the various outstations all over the World. Works parade was at 08:00. It will not be much of a surprise for you to learn that by 08:15 the checking



of the teleprinters had been done and the rest of the working day had to be filled in somehow. The quick brown fox didn't take too much time to jump over the lazy dog's back. I became an expert in bicycle maintenance.

The Technical Officer was a Capt. Ewart Smith, who sported an RAF type moustache. I think that he was only an Acting Captain, as sometime after he had left, someone was on a course in Catterick and they saw him with only two pips. Capt. Smith was a bachelor and lived in the mess with a young 2Lt.. whose name and role just eludes me. The CO lived in the Station House. I've no recollection whether he had a wife, but I can't recall ever seeing one. There was a Sgts. Mess, but from memory all sergeants were married and stayed in quarters in the village. One of my National Service contemporaries, John ten Hove was promoted to sergeant and he stayed in the Mess. The officers were reputed to drink in the Talbot, the sergeants in the Wheatsheaf and the corporals and other ranks in the Elephant and Castle. The latter was always known as the Jumbo and it was well patronised by the camp personnel. From memory, the Talbot was the only place that had beer engines and in the remainder of the pubs, beer was drawn directly from the barrel in a jug and then dispensed into glasses. There were, I think, 12 pubs drinking establishments in and around the village if you count the Swan at Radcot Bridge and periodically there would be a camp pub-crawl when all twelve would have to be visited.

On one occasion, someone from the camp raided the camp tuck shop and absconded "over the wire". The CO was furious and immediately doubled the guards. One Lt. Cpl. Mike Joseph, always known as "*Joe*" decided that this was a little unfair as the guards were supposed to stop the odd intruder entering the camp. His ploy was to send all guards to bed in the late evening,



when everything was quiet. Soon other guard commanders did the same. No one ever got found out, certainly as long as I was there. News of this did travel as sometime after demob, I mentioned to someone that I had spent most of my time at Bampton. His reply was “that is the camp where all the guards slept”.

The CO decided to spend some money to keep a few of us gainfully occupied and he arranged for a couple of kits for double canvas canoes to be delivered. Norman Taylor, the camp sign writer and myself constructed these under the fatherly eye of Sgt Tony Duffin. One canoe was called DuCoTa. In the summer several of us would pack the odd blanket, tent and food in the canoe and paddle off up and down the Thames which is, as you know, only about a mile from camp. One Saturday, four from Weald Camp camped at the bottom of Agatha Christie's garden near Oxford. A phone call back to camp summoned up transport. The camp phone number was Clanfield 221 and there were a number of GPO personnel who could tap on the cradle dit dit, dit dit, dit and you could get through without paying.

When the Suez crisis was brewing up the CO had a number of us joining short lengths of copper wire together. I assume that this was in short supply or that there was a long lead-time on indents. I also assume that another rhombic was added to the antenna field.

After National Service I joined ICI in Blackley, Manchester as a Lab Assistant. By dint of hard Work, I passed exams on a regular basis and was eventually promoted to Research Chemist. I was in Blackley for 12 years and then I transferred to Grangemouth Works, about 18 miles from my present home. After 3 years in Grangemouth, I decided that ICI was no longer for me and did a sideways shuffle into teaching. In 1979 I got a job at Dollar Academy and in 1983 I joined their CCF becoming their RSO.



In 1985 I had a week's attachment with 244 Signal Squadron, Brize Norton. One day I revisited Bampton and Weald Camp. What a shock! The Jumbo had had a fire and the thatch had gone to be replaced with tiles or slates. Weald camp was unrecognisable. Only the receiver Hall was standing. All the accommodation, cookhouse, cinema, tuck shop etc had gone. All camp personnel were bussed in from Brize each day. There didn't seem to be many of those compared to the 120 in its heyday.

Social life on camp wasn't too bad. There was often transport to Faringdon, Witney and Oxford. Occasionally trips were organized to London. There was the cinema once a week and every so often dances were organised and lassies from the village attended. On rare occasions we were invited to Brize Norton for a jazz concert, which was at that time still an American base.

Do they still have the Mummings at Christmas and the Bampton Morris at Eastertide? Is there still a Witney Fair? Have all of these traditions disappeared with the passing of time? Do people still use the old dialect - "Bist e gannin to Witney Fair?"

I retired from teaching in 2000 at 65 and from the CCF in 2003, having done almost 20 very enjoyable years. The last time I was in the HQ Mess at Blandford was in November 2002 and they have a complete set of "The Wire". I was interested to see that snippets from Weald Camp were included under UK Comcan Signal Regiment. I don't know whether you could pay them a visit and extract sufficient material for a modest potted history of the camp, if not for the museum.

Signed 73 Geoff GM0LOD
RSARS 2128

End



The other end in Italy during WWII

The following article has been extracted from the QSL page of the internet and edited with the author's consent, William J. Barbone OBE who served with the Royal Corps of Signals abroad. This article gives a very good account of the type of equipment and stations that were in communication with Bampton.

http://www.qsl.at/english/en_xa-uk.html



Bill operating XAKM, aged 21 in 1945.
Note the RCA AR77 RX. Marchianese

In order to look at the origins of the post war Armed services Ham Radio activity in Italy, one perhaps needs to look at the development of the overall Signals Organisation in the CMF (Central Mediterranean Force). In November 1942 Operation Torch, the invasion of the British and American armies in North Africa, was the first major operation in which

massive forces were beginning operations in countries in which they had no permanent bases. They therefore had to plan to have available all the facilities that a modern force requires. Not the least important was the need for Signals communication with their home bases in London, Washington and adjacent theatres of operation such as Cairo and West Africa. The Signals Plan therefore incorporated the inclusion of teams of highly skilled signal experts in both the US Signal Corps and the UK Royal Signals.

It is historically interesting to note that the British forces with the background need for Empire communications had a greater range of professional equipment available for their use than the US forces. The UK had developed the Marconi/Cable and Wireless Short Wave Beam high speed wireless communication network and a range of production professional equipment was available for their use.



In the US, the main Short distance developments had been in Broadcasting, mostly by the RCA company, but also in the development by companies such as Hallicrafters, of lower power SW transmitters for Amateur Radio use.

I believe that much of the planning for the UK Signals set-up was carried out by a Royal Signals Officer with a background in am radio; sadly I can no longer remember his name, but I do recall that his work was written up in the post war Ham Radio journals.

The UK Signals Regiment responsible for the major UK controlled communication networks for AFHQ was 2 GHQ Signals, a Regiment that I joined early in 1944. They were equipped with two Marconi 10KW transmitters type SWB11 and two 4KW transmitters type SWB8; the receivers were Marconi Type RC67, as developed for the pre-war world-wide high speed wireless networks, or for the mobile sections, the Marconi CR100.

Trailers were fully mobile whereas the SWB11s were intended for permanent installation in a TX station. They were provided with 120ft high masts. The SWB8 transmitters were installed in semi-articulated vehicles.

Masts being erected with a derrick, much as a modern yacht's mast can now be installed. The antennae normally used were 3-wire wide band rhombics. The circuits were operated at 90-100wpm, depending on conditions. The RX were operated in dual or triple diversity.

Each section had a complement of around 30 wireless operators together with radio mechanics, diesel fitters, drivers and of course cooks! There were also a number of so-called Heavy Wireless sections, these operated manual morse links internally in the theatre. They were equipped with 400 watt BC610 transmitters and all the relevant RX and antenna for shorter distance links.

All the Wireless operators were trained to a very high standard at the 4th Wireless Group in Egham, Surrey, a unit that I myself joined in October 1943 after my initial infantry training and a basic 3-month course as a wireless operator, taking morse up to 15wpm and basic operating procedures, map reading etc.

Operators were trained to touch type on both typewriters and Kleinschmidt tape perforators, together with the ability to read morse from an Undulator tape. Operators were also expected to reach 25wpm CW capability, taken



directly on a typewriter. In essence they were trained as fully professional telegraphists.

Very soon after the commencement of Operation Torch, Algiers was occupied and AFHQ was established in the Hotel St George, on the hillside overlooking Algiers. This was not without incident however. As I learned later, the ships unloading in the harbour were bombed several times and several were sunk, including one carrying one of the SWB11 TXs. Fortunately it was well packed and crated for export conditions and it was recovered and put into service.

The Main Transmitter station for both UK and US signals was established at Beni Messous, a few kilometres south of Algiers. This was a not insignificant installation with the rhombic antennae spreading for half a km around the site. It included a 300ft mast for the Navy's LW Tx. The US Signal Corps had a number of RCA 20KW Broadcast TXs, converted for CW and also I remember they had a FAX circuit to Washington. As far as I can recall the RX station was a little further out at Blida

After completing my training at the 4th Wireless Group in Jan 1944 I found myself posted overseas with 30 other operators and after a brief leave I joined a US Navy

auxiliary, the USS Lyon which was a mother ship for assault Landing Craft. We were relieved to find that we were not to be landed on a beach somewhere, but later realised that she was going to the Mediterranean theatre to support the landings at Anzio. [Just south of Rome, west coast]

Although we were not supposed to know where we were destined for, we found that although the ships maintained radio silence, we could easily read the morse signal lamps, so that we could follow the progress of the convoy, including the frantic messages when we were attacked by submarines and were surrounded by Corvettes dropping depth charges all round us.

We landed at Oran [Algeria] in N Africa and proceed by very slow train to Algiers (in cattle trucks which were the normal transport for soldiers - 40 men or 8 horses!).

The encampment at Beni Messous was centred around the buildings and barns of an old French N. African Colonial farm complex. Despite the high-technology of our work, we lived pretty simply in tents, sleeping on the ground on ground sheets. In fact in all the 6 months I was in N Africa, I did not once sleep in a bed!



We did however have the occasional day out in the Kasbah in Algiers! We set to work in the Hotel St. George, working round the clock in 8 hour shifts. I first worked in the Cable and Wireless Cable office, operating on the Sub-cable circuits to Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria.

These circuits were synchronised high speed morse systems, but used a morse code using reversed polarity on the cable so that the dots were the same length as the dashes - a new technique to learn.

After the invasion of Italy and the fall of Naples in early 1944, AFHQ started to move to Italy and was established in The Royal Palace in Caserta, around 15 Km north of Naples.

The Transmitter station was established at Carditello, some 10km from Caserta at the site of the King of Naples' Country Estate, somewhat dilapidated I recall. Co-located were UK signals, US signal Corps, RAF, Navy and for a while Cable and Wireless press circuits which used the same SWB8 trailers that we were equipped with. Each group was located in a corner of the range of buildings. (If you look up Carditello on the Internet you will find plans of the whole site which has

now been renovated.)

The equivalent receiver site was at Marchianese, near Maddaloni, just south of Caserta at the side of the then main Naples road. This site was manned by the US Signal Corps and the UK Signals occupied several huts on the site: the US provided the Administration which we liked, as their food was much better than ours! The US Signal Corps Lt in charge was Ed Gaul, W6PXQ who became a good friend when I moved there later. Royal Signals operated circuits to London, call sign JAJA (we were JJJJ), to Cairo, West Africa, links to the Partisans in Yugoslavia and links to forward units. Our manual wireless links used the US BC610 which was a wartime version of the Hallicrafters HT4 a pre war Ham Tx which I remember was advertised in the back of the ARRL handbook.

So the picture that I have tried to build up is that there was a massive signal structure in the area. As an example of the planning detail, we even had Great Circle maps centred on Algiers and Caserta to aid in antenna bearing determination.





Carditello. The top floor with the little windows was where we slept! One can see the pole and the gantry carrying the 600 ohm transmission lines from the US site, over our roof to the rhombic behind the building. I know it is a US antenna because one can see that it is a pine telegraph pole as used by the Signal Corps. They did not have the benefit of the Marconi portable 120ft steel masts! To the right just behind the gantry one can see the thinner lines of one of our steel masts.

Getting started in Italy.

Arriving in Italy in July 1944 I worked for the first few months in Italy in the Cable Office in Naples before moving to the TX site at Carditello when I dropped my Operator role and became Radio Mechanic for 40 High Speed Wireless Troop.



Sgt. Barbone in Padua,

At the end of the campaign in 1945, the Allied Command decided to move AFHQ to Rome and I went with an advance party to begin to set up the transmitter installations, just outside Rome, next to the old Ital-Cable SW station on the road to Frascati.



Many of the personnel in both UK and US Signals were recruited from the pre-war Ham Radio fraternity, as indeed I was myself. By Sept 1945, after the end of the Campaign in Italy the Hams in the Signals Command were pressing for permission to start up Ham activities. I believe that my Company Commander Major Jim Kirk, G6ZO was one of the instigators.

It was agreed at the level of the Chief Signals Officer that the Hams who had a pre-war licence could be permitted to go on the air in the 7, 14 and 28 Mc/s bands. There was no very formal arrangement - you just had to get your CO to register your operation with signals command and you were required to use a call sign prefixed with XA: most Hams just added this on to a version of their pre-war calls.

Ostensibly this was for the purpose of furthering operating skills amongst signals personnel. At the age of 14 in 1939 I had gained an Artificial Aerial licence call

sign 2HKM. This allowed me to build and experiment with TX equipment, but not to connect to a radiating aerial - this had to wait until I was 18 yrs old. So in 1945 I could not at first go on the air in my own right as I had only an AA licence. I applied to the GPO, the licensing body in the UK, and on producing evidence that I was a qualified operator, I was granted a licence. In the meantime I shared a license with Ron Cumberlidge, my section Sgt who was G3CK and we used the call sign XACK.

I had moved up to Rome with the advance party and was billeted in the Italian Ministry of Air building in the centre of Rome. My own commanding Officer, Major Jim Kirk G6ZO one of the instigators of the move into Ham activity, found a suitcase radio, a B set, as used by the behind-the-lines spy people. I used this set from my barrack room with a few metres of wire flung out of the window to get on to the air on CW. In fact I worked a regular sked with Jim every day whilst I was in Rome.



However the move to Rome was abandoned as the Allies signed a peace treaty with the Italian Government. So I moved back to Marchianese, the receiver site, where I proceeded to build myself a little rig in the workshop. A 6V6 Xtal osc, 807 and 807 PP final, working in the 7, 14 and 28 m/cs bands. As there was plenty of space around the site I had the luxury of access to spare masts for antennae and I built a 28mc/s Multi-element Sterba array as well as a number of dipoles for lower bands.

Crystal control was normal as the US Signal Corps seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of Xtls with harmonics in the Ham Bands. As the Campaign was ended a lot of equipment was being declared surplus and we used to go on search parties looking for sources of suitable components for rig building! Jim Kirk found me a surplus RCA AR77 RX to complete my setup.

By this time the GPO in England had issued me with a full licence, G2HKM so I went on the air in my own right as XAKM. I mostly operated CW at first, but later added a grid modulator to the rig as I found that local hams in my home town, Liverpool in England

were able to arrange for my family to join in nightly QSOs. Remember that many of us had been overseas for as much as three years in some cases.

Early in 1946 a sort of agreement was reached with Signals Command for Hams to use their own calls, suffixed by /I, so I became G2HKM/I and Jim Kirk G6ZO/I etc. We were much in demand on all bands and I have a collection of some 150 QSL cards covering world wide contacts.

By this time we had introduced the first Army RTTY FSK TELETYPE circuit to London to replace the high speed morse circuits. This was the first Radio use of the Murray five unit code in conjunction with US Teletypes or Creed 7B teleprinters making message handling much easier, and possibly less skilled. The system was designed at the School of Signals in Catterick, in England and we conducted a number of tests with them before the RTTY was made operational on the London circuit.

I operated from Marchianese until mid 1946, when the terms of the Italian treaty required the Allied Armies To withdraw from Italy, with the exception of the Free Zone in Trieste.



So I set about moving the UK RTTY circuit to 13 Corps Signals located in Padova. By this time I was the Sgt in charge and I set up the whole installation in the countryside near Padova, whilst continuing with my Ham activities as G2HKM/I.

Whilst in Padova I made the acquaintance of a number of Italian hams, including a particular friend Mario Lunel, IIMG; they were working in particularly difficult conditions as a result of the devastation and shortages caused by the war. I remember in particular his antenna feed through insulators which were made from beer bottles with a hole drilled through the bottom!

I believe that similar arrangements for ham activity were made in Germany by the Signals Command; evidence of this is in the QSL card collection. I do not think that there were any French XA calls as there was no Army of occupation in France - but there was one station in Zeltweg, Austria.

I finished my service in Italy in March 1947 when my final job was to go up to Trieste to layout the antenna sites ready for the move of 13 Corps to that city which was to be the final place to be occupied by the British

Army, 24th Guards Brigade in fact.

I had to leave my ham rig behind but would note that for the last couple of months of operation Signals Command vetoed the use of personal Calls and I reverted to XAKM for my last few QSOs. My rig was taken over by another, who continued to operate it for a few months before being demobbed. I believe that XA ended in Italy when the armies pulled out.

As a postscript, I finished the last three months of my five years of service at the UK War Office Transmitting station near Guildford, where as well as the SWB11s, I found myself in charge of a couple of those RCA 20Kw converted broadcast TXs I had seen in use by the Signal Corps in Africa and Italy.

In the ensuing years, I kept in touch with Jim Kirk who had joined Standard and Cables as a Transmitter Installation Engineer. He remained an active CW ham operator all his life. I found the post war years as a TX Development Engineer living in lodging not very conducive to ham activity and I became inactive until 40 years later when I reactivate G2HKM.

Bill (W.V.Barbone OBE) 21/05/2002

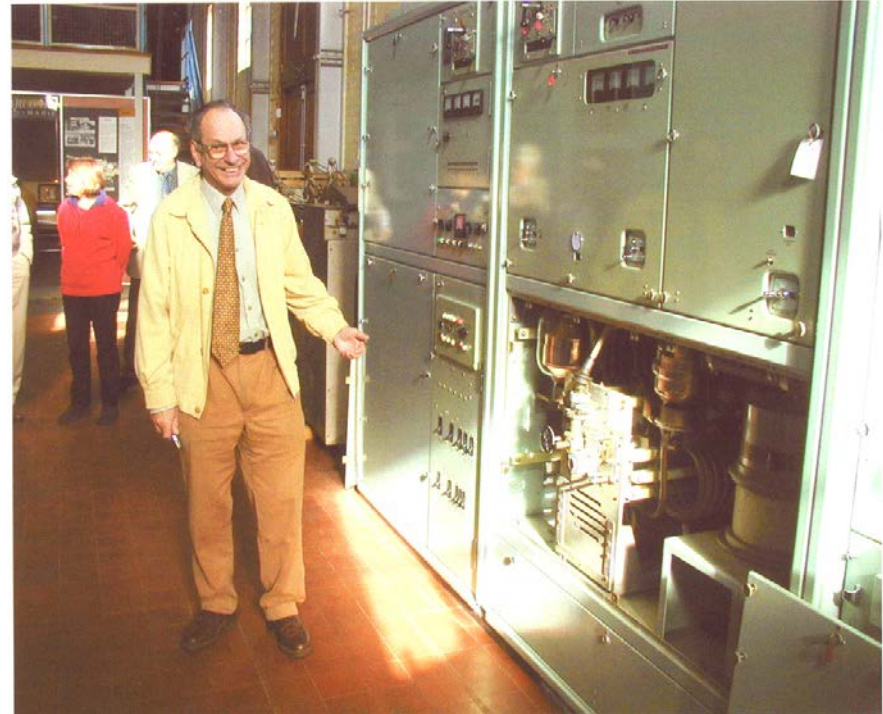


(Editor's note:* Bill joined the Marconi Company after demob, first as a Transmitter Development Engineer and was involved in the development of the post war range of single-sideband HF transmitters, followed by Troposphere UHF TXs.

He became head of the Communication TX laboratory and then Chief Engineer of the pioneering Space Communications Division, finishing as a Divisional Director of the Communications company.

He was Chairman of the UK Space Industry committee and was appointed to the Science research council board of Planetary Science and Astronomy, later as consultant to the EEC DG13 in Luxembourg. Bill retired in 1987 and now cultivates his garden.)

End



Transcript of Videotape played at The Royal Signals Museum

In the autumn of 1953 in the deserts of Australia preparations were almost complete for an historic scientific experiment.....five four three two one (sound of large explosion).....

The signal announcing the success of the explosion of the British Atomic Bomb at Woomera Range was passed to London over COMCAN from the Woomera Desert to Melbourne; from Melbourne over the COMCAN link direct by wireless to the Receiver Station at Bampton in Oxfordshire; then by landline to London. A distance of over **10,000 miles**. The message was received **6 minutes** after the bomb was detonated.

With the end of the Second World War came the development of the Commonwealth Communications Army Network. This a Tape Relay Wireless System. It maintains communications between the War Office and the Commands overseas and also to many of the Commonwealth countries. In a **typical year COMCAN transmits over 45,000 messages**, more than **1,200 a day**. The average length of a message is much longer than those passed over civil systems. They deal with every aspect of the Army's work; one message may be a Top Secret message concerning strategy; the next a query about marriage allowance. The COMCAN **Transmitters** are amongst the most powerful communications transmitters in the world with an output of **30kW**.

The station's transmitting aerials are sited on an exact bearing and in this case the message was beamed in the direction of the receiving station's aerial on the other side of the globe. The message was received in Melbourne by cable or wireless where it was relayed on to its destination. The Melbourne outstation is maintained and operated by the members of the Royal Australian Signals. The COMCAN Network consists of **14 major outstations** including those at Wellington, Singapore, Ottawa, Washington, Nairobi, and Malta. All these stations on **the network can pass messages directly or indirectly to one another**. The wireless link is worldwide.



I am able to account for Singapore having served there for 6 years.

I originally arrived at Kuala Lumpur in Malaya to provide Technical support to 77 Wireless Troop GHQ Signals. This was a small outpost station at Seremban in North Malaya which provided communications from the field back to Singapore. It consisted of a small operations room containing four operating positions using AR88s. There was nothing sophisticated about aerials. These were simple end fed wire aerials, each receiver having a direct connection. The transmitter site was 4 BC610s contained in a small hut which at the same time was my living quarters.

This was in 1947 and the Japanese were still there as prisoners of war carrying out general duties. It was during the period when the Communists were causing as much disruption as possible, to anything they could. Railways being their main target which they blew up at regular intervals. I left there in 1948 for the Transmitter site in Singapore being the only trained Single Sideband Mechanic in the area and where one was needed.

Singapore had a transmitter station at 4 mile point on the Changi road and was not very far from Changi itself. The receiver station was on the other side of the island at Buona Vista and remained so until 1954 when the new Army Wireless Chain stations were installed with Transmitters at Jurong and the Receiver site at Amoy Quee.

Transmitters at Changi were SWB11, SWB8, JT1331 and the RCA look alike ET 4331. Four BC610s complimented the station. Aerials were Rhombics, Delta Match and one Sterba Curtain. The station was connected to the Signal Centre by cable which suffered similar fates to Ceylon, chopped up and stolen by local Chinese thieves. It is worth noting that an SWB8 was modified by



myself using a modulation deck of a BC610. This modulated the first PA of the transmitter and was very successful as a low level modulated transmitter, used to communicate with Hong Kong. The transmitter hall was originally built by the Koreans for the Japanese during their occupation. It consisted of a brick built building located in a large hole dug out of the ground. The earth removed formed a bunker-like site by piling it around the edge. Only a direct hit by a bomb would have caused damage. The site was located in a rubber plantation.

About Hong Kong

Ray Webb RSARS 0046 writes. *“I did this in late 1949 while I was with 23rd Fd Regt RA and then posted to the Hong Kong Signal Troop. However I modulated the output stage on stud 1 (low power) to save changing the Output bias to Class B Bias”*

The receiver site was small by comparison. A small hall with a workshop attached which held four Marconi R211s and two or three racks of diversity AR88s. Aerials were Rhombics and Dipoles.

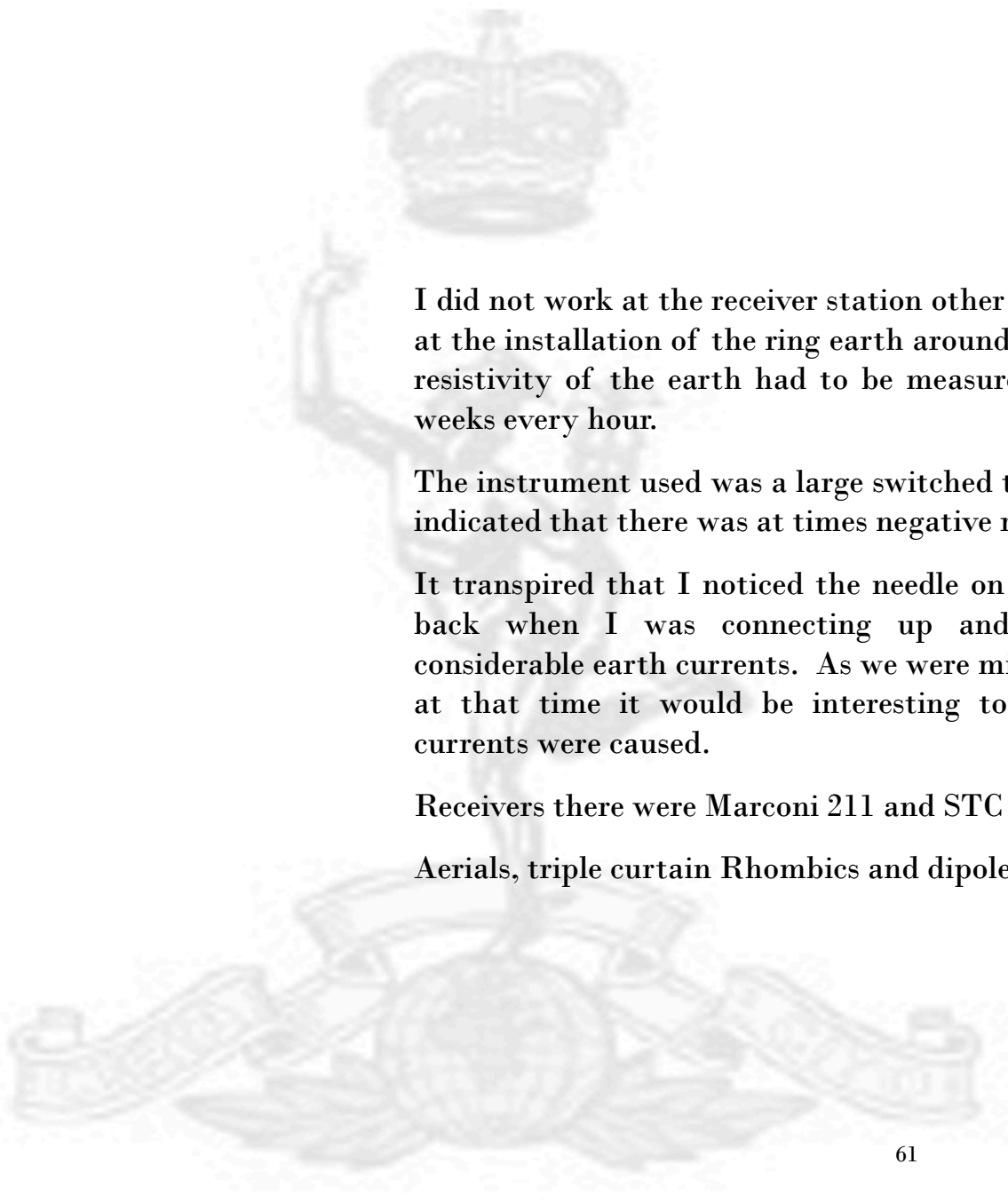
The site was located immediately opposite the Military Cemetery there, so should not be difficult to locate at any time. In the 60s during the Maria Hertog Riots, British Forces suffered some casualties and they were buried there.

It was a bit upsetting that these people should have died for no other reason than they were British.

And so in 1954 when the purpose built stations came into being the new Marconi E10 Transmitter was installed by our dedicated AWC installation team and supervised at times by a Marconi representative. It was at this time Marconi was asked to quote for the restoration of an SWB8 transmitter and the cost proving rather prohibitive to the service, I was asked if I could do it. This took around three months to complete with a complete strip down and all the facilities that the military workshops in Singapore could provide. The spraying of the panels. The acid dip of the brass chassis and so on. I believe this transmitter

now stands in the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford.





I did not work at the receiver station other than to be present at the installation of the ring earth around the building. The resistivity of the earth had to be measured for a couple of weeks every hour.

The instrument used was a large switched type Megger which indicated that there was at times negative resistance.

It transpired that I noticed the needle on the meter kicking back when I was connecting up and was caused by considerable earth currents. As we were miles from anywhere at that time it would be interesting to know how these currents were caused.

Receivers there were Marconi 211 and STC 212.

Aerials, triple curtain Rhombics and dipoles.



So what of the far end?



Two Medium Power transmitters for Shorthaul circuits

On the left Johnson JT1331 or RCA JT4331. 1Kw

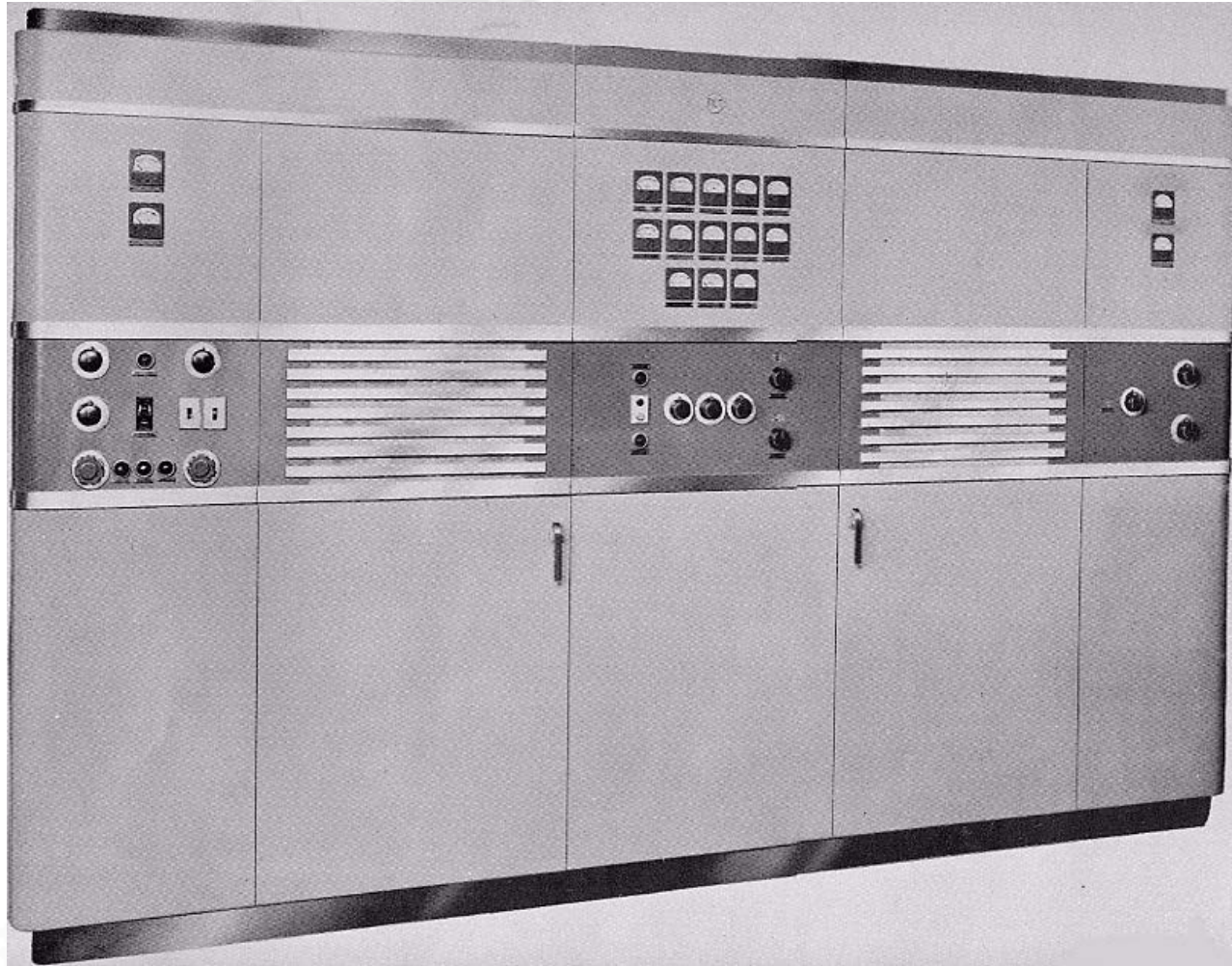
On the right Hallicrafters BC610 with accessories. 5Kw



BC610s in The TX Hall of Carditello 1943



Radio Corporation of America ET4750



Lend Lease equipment.

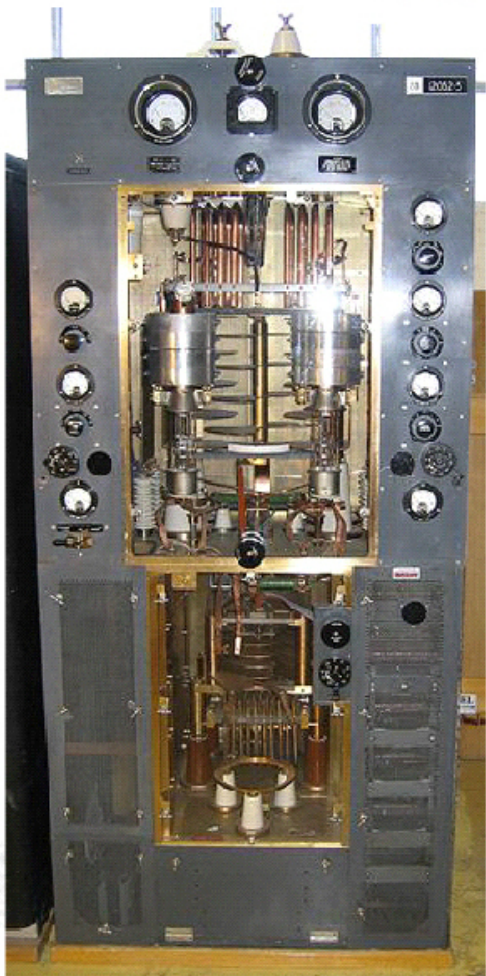
10 Kilowatt Broadcast Transmitter. Converted for CW and Rtty

Typical circuit was ACCRA.

4 were located at Droitwich and Worcester and more abroad



Marconi Short Wave Beam SWB8 Transmitter



Front panels removed to show interior

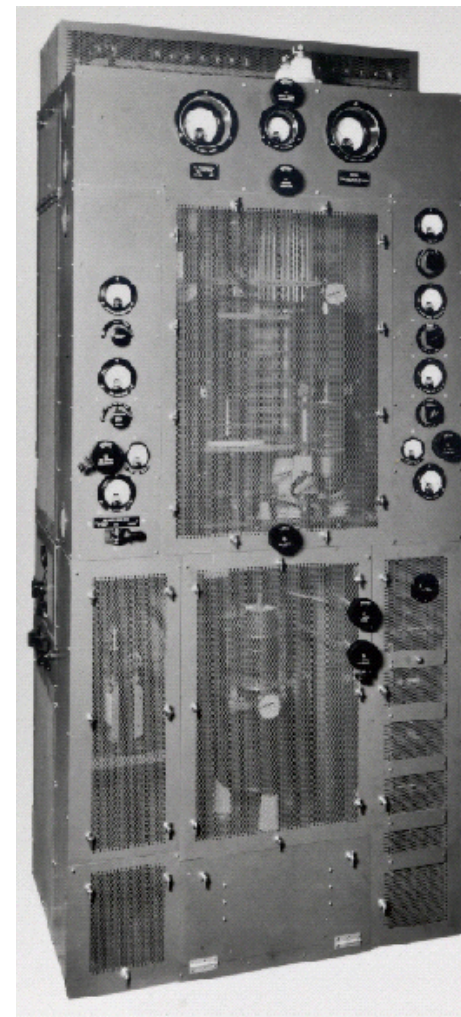
The Marconi SWB8 HF transmitter was originally produced in the late 1930s as a shipboard transmitter having an all-brass carcass construction for corrosion prevention. These units were used by the Australian Army in WWII and after the war about a dozen units were purchased by DCA, who gave permission to use this picture.

The Airways Museum's SWB8 was in use in Darwin. When removed from service it was filthy with years of accumulated grime and a dead snake was found in the bottom of it! The unit was restored to its present pristine condition by Museum volunteer Ron Sevier in 2000. Perspex panels (seen on the left) permit a view of the interior which would have been covered by brass mesh plates in service (seen on the right).

Specification

Manufacturer Marconi England
Type of service High Speed Machine Morse
Later modified for Radioteletype

Frequency Range 3 to 22.2 Mhz
Output power 2 to 3.5 Kilowatts
Valve type Output ACT9
Driver stages 807, ML6 Franklyn Oscillator
Power supply GO20 Mercury Vapour



Is this where the transmitters purchased from the Australian Army came from?

A rather different account is provided by Malcolm Squance G3HTB who was stationed in Darwin Australia at a large Tx/Rx station called Leanyer Station. He couldn't tell us anything about the equipment as he was on cipher and coding with SOE. He was very near to SRD which stood for The Special Reconnaissance Department. Although Malcolm is not sure he believes SRD was one of the places involved with the midget submarines. The Department was a cross between SOE and our Special Boat Service.

The Aussie boat station was where the Krait sailed from, which was one of a very few luggers and was disguised as a native fishing boat running between the Japanese held islands. It was concerned with the resistance operations.

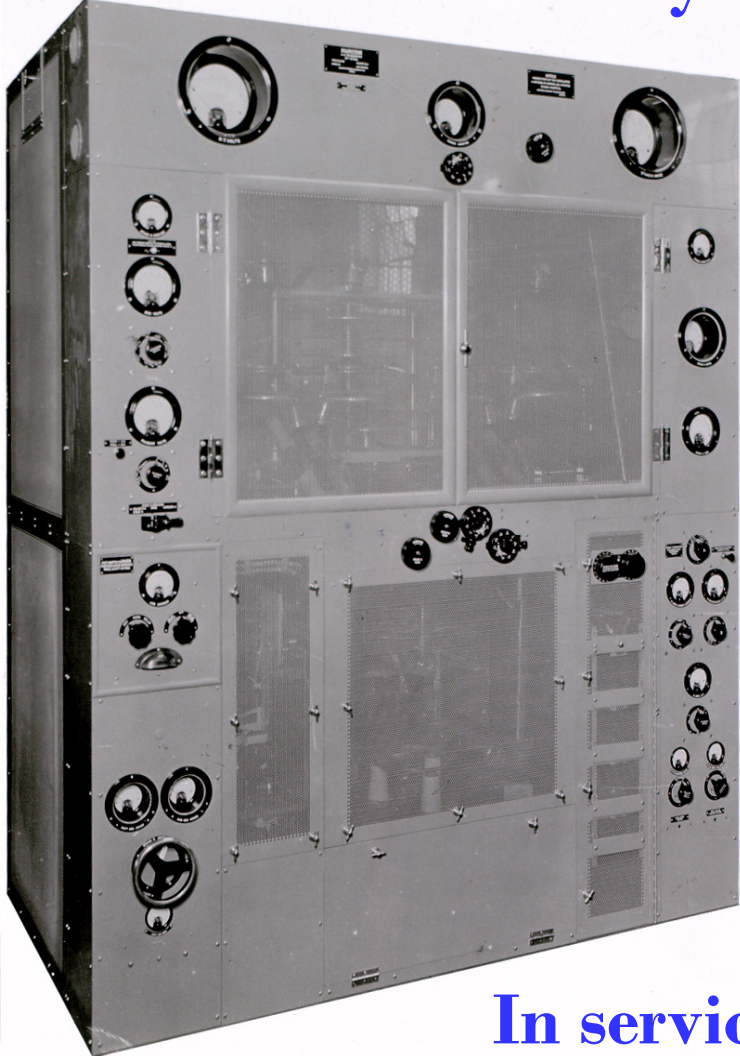
Malcolm says "We transmitted to all the allied cities including London and also to SOE in London and also our resistance agents in the Pacific field of operations. We actually joined the Australian Army in Sydney and were officially demobbed from the Australian Army again in Sydney before we left the Country for India.

Being rather long in the tooth it is difficult to remember precise dates but I seem to think it would be round about 1944/45. I know the Pacific war finished while I was out there and we were under the command of General Blamey of the Aussie forces."

Malcolm G3HTB RSARS 1343



The Royal Signal's Work-Horse



The Marconi SWB 11

Frequency range :- 3 to 22.2 Mhz
Max output power :-10 Kilowatts
CW, Rtty, SSB

PA. 4 x ACT9

Driver stages. 1 x ACT9

4 x 807. 2 x ML6 Franklyn MO

In service for at least 30 years



The last High Power Transmitter to be used by The Army



Marconi Wireless Sender E10

Power Output:- 0.5 to 30Kw

Frequency range:- 3 to 25.6Mhz

Modes. R/T(AM and SSB),FSK,CW

Master Oscillator or crystal control



Witney Gazette/Oxford Times 12th September 1969

Bampton residents, sheltering from the winter weather in their fine bus shelter in Broad Street will always have cause to remember the Royal Corps of Signals.

For the shelter, which was handed over to Mr. Maurice Clack, chairman of Bampton Parish Council, by Col. Ted Winn on Saturday, is a present from "The Signals" to the people of Bampton.

The gift, in appreciation of 30 years' association with the town, was a farewell one, for on Monday the 3rd Squadron, 14th Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, which has been stationed at the Weald, Bampton, handed over to No. 90 Signals Group, Royal Air Force.

Bronze plaque

The ceremony, which was held in bright sunshine outside the shelter, attracted a small crowd of townspeople. Col. Winn, Commander 1st Signals Group, Strategic Command, unveiled a bronze plaque in the shelter and thanked the people of Bampton for the kindness, hospitality and understanding throughout the years.

"The association has been a long one, for 30 years ago this month the first Royal Signals came to Bampton," he said. "To the many soldiers posted here, their stay in Bampton was a happy one — and some of them even had the good taste to marry Bampton girls."

Local bride

Col. Winn then mentioned Mr. Albert Watterson, who came to Bampton in 1939 with the 50th Division and was the first to marry a local girl, then Miss Janet Poole. He has settled in the town and works at Smiths Industries.

Accepting the bus shelter, Mr. Clack described it as a most generous and useful gift and reminded everyone that the first "Signals" had arrived in Bampton within 48 hours of the onset of the 1939-45 war.

"Since then they have become part of the parish. We shall always remember 'Bampton Signals'," he said.

Major L. W. Prescott, Officer Commanding at Bampton, Capt. J. S. Howe and a number of the squadron members were present at the ceremony, and also Flight-Lieut. S. Hawkes, who takes over as Commanding Officer of the station for the R.A.F. and who will be living in Bampton. He was welcomed by Mr. Clack, who said that he hoped the association with the R.A.F. would be as long and as happy

as that with the unit now leaving.

Among the visitors was Brig. Sir George Walton (retired), a former Commander of the 50th Division and Air Commodore A. S. Ellerton, who lived in Bampton for 17 years before leaving two years ago.

Residents at the ceremony included Mrs. R. A. Colville and Miss D. G. Thomson, both county council and parish council members, Mrs. F. Coles and Mr. L. Hughes-Owens,

Witney Rural District Council representatives, Mr. R. Rouse, vice-chairman of Bampton Parish Council, and members Mr. E. Stroud, Mr. R. L. G. Carter, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Jack Lawrence and Mrs. A. Taylor.

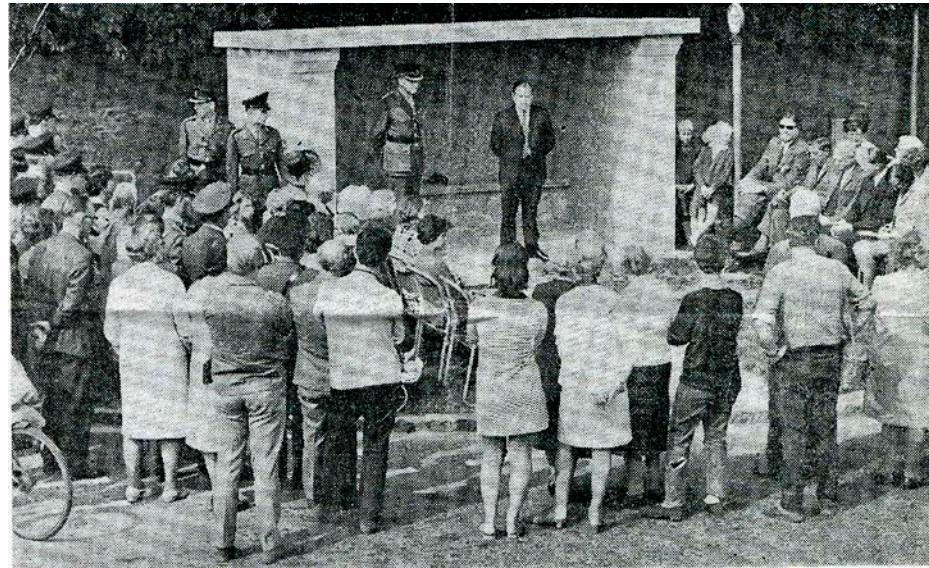
The Royal Signals at Bampton have a fine record of efficiency and have played a big part in providing an excellent communications service to the Army and R.A.F.

during the past ten years, when the need for constant and reliable communications between the United Kingdom and overseas forces has been of vital importance.

Met. information

Although there has always been an R.A.F. element in residence, the primary role of the Bampton station has been that of the main Army receiving station in the United Kingdom, keeping in constant communication with Army formations throughout the world.

In addition, it has had the responsibility for receiving meteorological information and relaying it to the Meteorological Headquarters at Bracknell from stations throughout the Northern hemisphere. This service has been maintained continuously by the civilian contingent, who will continue to operate alongside their R.A.F. counterparts.



12/9/69

Bampton has shelter from the 'Signals'

Standing in Bampton's new bus shelter are Col. Ted Winn, Commander 1st Signals Group, Army Strategic Command, and Mr. Maurice Clack, chairman of Bampton Parish Council. They are seen at the official handing over ceremony on Saturday.



The Royal Signals say Goodbye to Bampton

Royal Signals

The Royal Signals were at Weald Camp at Bampton for 30 years from 1939 to 1969. When they left, there was a small ceremony at which they presented Bampton with a bus shelter in Broad Street. There was a plaque at the back but it was removed by vandals and lost for many Years. When it was eventually found, it was badly weather-damaged and can now be seen in the small room of the Town Hall. The inscription reads:

**PRESENTED
TO
THE PEOPLE OF BAMPTON
BY THE
OFFICERS WARRANT OFFICERS
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND
MEN OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS
IN APPRECIATION OF
THIRTY YEARS HAPPY
ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR TOWN
1939-1969**

Extract from “Bampton / The way it was”

Chapter 13 | The War Years

Royal Signals

The Royal Signals were at Weald Camp at Bampton for 30 years from 1939 to 1969. When they left, there was a small ceremony at which they presented Bampton with a bus shelter in Broad Street. There was a plaque at the back but it was removed by vandals and lost for many years. When it was eventually found, it was quite badly weather-damaged and can now be seen in the small room of the Town Hall. The inscription reads:

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1939-1969*



Various emails which confirm dates etc.

Hello Ray, I was at Bampton Receiver Stn from 1950-52.

In those days the OC was Capt (Jimmy) MR Riddler and the 2 i/c was Lt (Homswoggle) Weston. CQMS (Badge) Burrows (ex Boys' service cadre) was in charge of the stores but just before he retired he made W011.

Can remember we built the pavilion on the sports field and there was a cricket square specially laid down. En-Tous-Cas built the tennis court(s). Among the chaps I can remember at that time were Sgt (Tiny) Webb, Sgt Harry Hawke; Sgt George Sheldrake looked after the aerials, Jock Coleman, Eric Goodings, Buck Angel & Sgt (Bunny) Lord.

The receiver hall had the usual AR88s and triple diversity receivers for Rtty and, of course, the BC221 freq meter.

At that time we had the casualty communiqués from Korea sent via Singapore. One of the chaps missing was from Bampton and, very unofficially, we told his NoK, he was safe when the message came thru' that he was a POW.

Recreation was usually a walk down to the Elephant where the landlord, Ralph Penny, made us welcome and provided us with named beer tankards. Liberty trucks took us in once/week to either Witney or Oxford and if we missed the truck we could always rely on Len Hughes for a taxi from the village. I can remember I was Orderly Sgt when King George VI died and it was my job to lower the flag and raise it to half mast.

Sure there must be other recollections, Ray, but I will have to think about that!!

Best Wishes

Kenneth E Brown

Kenneth Brown, 10:51 10/02/2005
+0000, Re: Bampton History

Reply-To: "Kenneth Brown"
<kengOpsw@ntlworld.com> From:
"Kenneth Brown"
<kengOpsw@ntlworld.com> To: "Ray
Evans" <Rayg3Iqc@ntlworld.com>
Subject: Re: Bampton History
Date: Thu, 10 Feb 2005 10:51 :31 -
0000
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express
6.00.2900.2180

Sorry can't help with that one Ray.
The OC when I arrived in 1950 was
Capt Strong who was succeeded by
Capt MR Riddler. He was there
when I left for MELF (JCJC) in 1952

Best Wishes

Kenneth E Brown



More emails

39, Priors Grange, .
High Pittington,
Durham. DH6 1DA
Tel. 0191 3721714
corps@milnet.uk.net
30/4/05

Dear Ray,

Referring to your article in the current issue of "Mercury" concerning Bampton, I was sent there as a member of a work party from War Office Signals in the summer of 1947.

Our job was to erect several 60 foot aerials, which meant digging the holes for the support plates and then constructing and raising the aerials. I can remember we were there for two weeks and in that time we saw nothing apart from the work site and the theatre where we were billeted. I do have a few photographs of the crowd, not very good ones, having been taken with a box camera, so if it would be of assistance to you I can try and get them out of the album and forward them on to you.

I think most of us were class "A" rated being OWKs and that posting was a relief from working shifts down the "Pit" in Whitehall. Incidentally, talking of the "Pit", on numerous visits to London, usually to take part in the Armistice Day Parade, I have tried unsuccessfully to find it's location and I am wondering if it is still there hidden away. As far as memory serves me, the new(?) MOD building is on the site of the old War Office, in which case, the "Pit" would be just on the right of the building. Hope this information is of some use.

All my details are in the address book, membership number is 3080 and callsign GOKGQ. Best wishes G A Armatage

Frederick Partington, 12:5008/02/2005 -0500, Call signs.
Date: Tue, 8 Feb 2005 12:50:00 -0500 From: Frederick Partington
<LauriePartington@compuserve.com> Subject: Call signs.
Sender: Frederick Partington
<LauriePartington@compuserve.com> To: Ray Evans
Rayg3IqC@ntlworld.com

I have missed out on this correspondence, but the following may help.

Callsigns (circuits) in 1955/1956 were BOSI (Boddington to Singapore) BOAC (Boddington to Accra) BONA (Nairobi) BOME (Melbourne) BOWA (Washington).

Can't remember the others but there were circuits to Delhi and South Africa. These were operated from Droitwich, and other more "local" circuits were operated from Pirbright. I visited Bampton in 1956 as part of the requalification as "Radio Technician (Heavy)". The receivers there were Marconi triple diversity. From May 1955 to Nov 1956 I was employed as Radio Mechanic Operator at Droitwich, and from Nov 1955 to 1956 was Comcan Shift Superintendant on a 24/7 rotating shift system. 23087400 Cpl Partington.

F.L. now G4BZP RSARS 0345 (Life Member) QTHR in all call books since 1968. Name Larry on CW and Laurie on voice Page 1 to 1
25/0212005



More emails

Bill Gibson, 01 :0721/01/1998 +0000, \Weald Signals
Page 1 of 1 From: "Bill Gibson"
<billgibson@madasafish.com>
To: <gg3Iq@ntlworld.com>
Subject: Bampton/Weald Signals
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 1998 00:29:55 -0000

Ray, further to our recent telecon, on re-reading your request I saw questions you asked. I was at Bampton from January 1948 until sometime in 1951 which may have a bearing on the cooks, as I recall it we had no cooks for the Sergeants' Mess as they had the same cookhouse as the jobs, but three names stick out. Roy Foster who was ACC and mentioned in my article for the Beam, Ken Neagle a Londoner who married one of the Sweetenham girls from Aston and Mac - dammit the name's gone. There was a plane crash at Brize and I believe it was short of the runway on the Bampton side though story had it that it was something like a Mosquito that flipped on approach in a side-wind. I do not recall when the tests took place but I do recall seeing the casualty lists going through when the Gloucesters, Northumberlands and the Irish ??? got the chop in Korea.

I will raise Don Herring today. - Gibbo.

DenG3HCM@aol.com. 14:2008/02/2005 -0500, Re: Call signs.
Page 1 of 1 From: DenG3HCM@aol.com
Date: Tue, 8 Feb 2005 14:20: 12 EST Subject: Re: Call signs.
To: Rayg3IqC@ntlworld.com
X-Mailer: AOL 5.0 for Windows sub 107

Hello, Ray,

I remember those call signs when I was briefly with Ceylon High Speed Wireless, not too far from Negombo in Ceylon. That was Christmas 1947, for about six weeks only. The DC was (Captain) RTR Cox (or Cocks), and he was licensed as a VS7, but whether he is still alive, I really don't know - I am 77 and he was a few years older than I was!

When I say that I remember the call signs, I mean just that, unfortunately I do not remember where they belonged, but Melbourne, Singapore, and, of course, London. (Was that JAJA?) Maybe one was for the Middle East, which would have been Cairo.

Sorry to be so negative, I really wish my memory was better.
GL with the searching
73 from
Dennis Dumbleton G3HCM RSARS 016
02/2005



More emails

Hi Ray,

Thanks for your e-mail. Yes, I served in the Royal Signals as a National Serviceman and was based for the final several months at Bampton, being demobilised in September 1955, at which point I set off for Jamaica to start a career in teaching.

I had a National Service Commission - the bane of the lives of all regular Warrant Officers and NCOs, being, as we all were, hopelessly naive - and served at Bampton as the administration officer.

There was an O.C., whose name I cannot recall, a technical officer and about 80 Warrant Officers, NCOs and soldiers. We were all part of War Office No.2 Signals Regiment, whose Headquarters was at Droitwich, I believe. I lived with my wife and baby daughter in Bampton in a house next door to a pub, but, with thirteen pubs in the village, quite a lot of houses were next door to pubs. It was ill furnished and had no mains sanitation. Once a week, an old chap, leading a white horse pulling a large tank, came round to empty all the "elsans". What a job!

I have few recollections but high among them is that the O.C. bred weimaraners (German hunting dogs), which he kept on the Camp. Whenever the C.O. came down from Headquarters, the dogs were shipped out in the back of a redundant hearse owned by the chap who trained them, and kept in hiding until the C.O. had departed.

The O.C. was not the easiest man to get along with. On one occasion, when the Duty Sergeant went off duty, taking, among other items, the armoury keys, instead of getting me to go after him and bend his ear, he sounded the alarm! The gates were secured and the soldiers shot to the armoury to draw weapons before taking up stations round the perimeter fence. When I went to find out the cause of the delay, I took action which wins medals in wartime and rebukes in peacetime; I got a crowbar *from* the Sergeant Major and forced the armoury door. The soldiers were all armed and in position when the O.C. came round. With some reluctance, he commended me on my initiative and went back to his office in a sour mood. The soldiers were very impressed. The NCOs and WOs simply accepted that they had a young lunatic on their hands.

Happy days!

Tony Finn (436479 was my number, which lingers in my mind)

P.S. Yes, I visited every one of the thirteen pubs. Pub-going remains an enduring hobby.

To: "Ray Evans"

<Rayg3Iqc@ntlworld.com> Subject: Re: [RSARS Members] Windmill Hill Tx Stn.

Hi Ray,

WINDMILL Hill - tx station at Ludgershall on A342 between Marlborough and Andover, replaced by PIRBRIGHT. I didn't serve there but Bob TODD (F Coy Jan 1939) did.

73 de Ray

13/05/2005



More emails

Bill Gibson, 03:43 25/01/1998 +0000, Weald Signals
From: "Bill Gibson" <billgibson@madasafish.com> To: "Ray Evans" <Rayg3IqC@ntlworld.com> Subject: Weald Signals
Date: Sun, 25 Jan 1998 03:43:27 -0000

Ray, on the basis that a lot of useless guff must be got in before it can be turfed out (edited), have you or do you intend to include, no photos available, the facts that we relied on the airfield at Shrivenham then at COD Bicester for our rations, two laundries at Aston and Thame (not at the same time) for our laundry and the RAF at Brize for our petrol. Our doctor was the civilian one in Bampton, we were visited by a man from Ducklington for haircuts, scissors and hand-operated clippers. We had a resident civilian 'Chippy' called Mr.?? Laurence, and in an age when there were still dry toilets in the village we had our own sewage works, also run by a civvy? We were for a time a classified station before telling the world that we existed at all, but that will show in the Records Office at Kew which Don Herring tells me you may visit!! I will have a little play with the system and see if the photos I possess can be blown up, and if in the meantime I can recall anything of interest, I will let you know.
Best wishes to you and Val - Gibbo.

To: "Ray Evans"

Hello Ray,

Yes - we did have a direct link to Delhi - JGJG if I recall.

I don't remember Karachi - it should have been a feed from Delhi. A line to CWW could settle that - he was in VU2 1945/6 with a GA Section - best to ring him, he is not on www at present.

UK - Melbourne was WYLA in 1944 and still in 1952 - it may have changed after that.

I was never at Bampton - only Droitwich although I used to visit there to see another F Coy lad - Harry Haw - Troop Sgt there 1951/2.

Snowing steadily here - three inches overnight - won't attempt to go out today!

From Ray Webb G3EKL. 25/02/2005



A letter

13, Chestnutwood Rd,
Barton-on-Trent.
DE 13 0PN
26.05.05.

Dear Ray,

I have just been browsing thru 'Mercury No. 140' and spotted your request for info on 'J' call signs. I've forgotten most of them I used, but these few I do remember from Malaya.

JQLF - Taiping - 1946 7th Indian Div
1947 23rd " "
Then N. Malaya Sub
District Sigs.

JQLI - K. Kangsar - 33 Indian Bde '46

JQLT - Ipoh - RA Bde 7th Ind Div

JQOQ - Kota Bharu - Signals Det.

Other units in N. Malaya were at Cameron Highlands, Kuala Lipis, Penang, Sungai Patani, Alor Star. I have a friend here in Barton who was in

(1)

76

7th Ind. Div. Sigs, I'll see if he can do any better, he's G3CWT.

G4 BUS, Reg Prosser should know a few he was in Malaya '47 - '48.

he's in the call book (R. Sigs)

Sorry I can't remember K.L. - I ought to but Anno Domini is getting to me.

73.

Jennie Walsh.

G Oyc

No. 2533.

P.S. I have us QSL for a QSO on 11/1/92. R.S. No 494.

(2)



A few odd facts

■ Soldiers that married Bampton Girls.

- Andy Martin. Tom Bradley Bill Neagle
- Peter Lewis “Gasher” Smith Roy Foster (ACC)
- Brian Sarahs “Dutch” Holland Ray Dollery
- Leo Lees.

■ Soldiers who Married Witney Girls.

- Bill Gibson Pete Williamson “Buck” Angel
- Mel Johnson Joe Robinson George Sheldrake
- Geoff Oakley Ginger Brown Alfie Heneson

■ Soldiers that settled in Bampton..

- Ray Evans
- Eddie Kingman
- Andy Martin
- Peter Lewis
- Brian Sarahs.



VSV 869 Bedford MWD 15 cwt Cargo Truck ex Army Z4764397
Duxford Military Rally 6/8/00 - Photo: Peter Jarman

2



1

Rations were collected from Shrivenham

Barrack Stores from Wheatley Oxford

On a Sunday a truck went to Faringdon to pick up the newspapers. Soldiers would get tea and toast at a little café in the square.

Personnel were billeted at..

The Manor House, Broad Street

Manor Lodge, Church Close

The Talbot

Mill Farm (Black Bourton)

Lavender Cottage, Market Square

Vehicles on camp.

Tilly (1), Bedford 15cwt (2).

4 WD 3 Ton Austin.



78

Memories of The Royal Signals in Bampton linger on

Well, the history of Weald Wireless Station didn't stop there. For in the late summer of 2007 I decided that I would go for a walk up and around where I had served in the Royal Signals and from where I finished my Army career in 1967. I was surprised to find that basically the camp at Weald was, for the main part, still intact and with the gates to the compound wide open, I walked in and started to look around. All the accommodation huts had gone and a large bunker built by the RAF when they were there dominated the scene. I met the manager of the site and started recalling my days there and in effect was given the 'keys to the city'.

"Pop in and look around any time you like," I was told. There was no sign of "Jimmy", the name given to the Royal Signals cap badge. How Mercury, the Winged Messenger God, came to be called Jimmy or who gave him that name is not known, but he was called Jimmy with affection by those serving. I went over a lot of memories of that place, all happy ones. In Weald there is a lovely walk whereby one can walk right round and come back at the rear of the dairy farm and it was here that I came across a radio tower, all overgrown and suffering from neglect.



Bunker built by the RAF



Radio tower and dairy





Tower over-grown with brambles



Building by the tower, also covered in brambles

I remember saying the first time I saw it that the place was obviously not in use. I was eventually able to trace the owner, Simon Collins, who farmed the surrounding area.





Over the weeks that followed and up until March the following year, 2008 I hatched out a plan which perhaps could revive the amateur radio station, which I held the license for in 1964 and which was within yards of the site. Simon Collins agreed to rent the area to me. My sweetheart Valerie and I started to clear the place up.

I approached OFCOM (the official Government department for issuing radio licences) and requested that they re-issue the licence to me as a lapsed one. They agreed that they would, but only if I could prove that I was the person who had held it before. Fortunately my Army discharge book mentions the fact that I was stationed there at the time and that my hobby was amateur radio. I sent them a copy and they issued the licence, or ticket as we Hams call it.

Amateur Radio Licence
Licence de radio amateur
Amateurfunklizenz

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands & the Isle of Man
Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, les Îles Anglo-Normandes et l'Île de Man
Vereinigtes Königreich von Großbritannien und Nordirland, die Kanalinseln und die Isle of Man

Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006
Législation sur la télégraphie sans fil 2006
Gesetz über drahtlose Telegrafie 2006

Section 1
Licence details
Renseignements sur la licence
Lizenzdetails

Licence class Classe de licence Lizenzklasse	Amateur Club Radio Licence
CEPT equivalent licence class Classe de licence CEPT équivalente Entsprechende CEPT-Klasse	1
Licensee's name Nom du titulaire Name des Lizenzinhabers	Mr RC Evans
Callsign Indicatif d'appel Rufzeichen	G3LPC
Mailing address Adresse postale Postanschrift	30 Chandler Close ,BAMPTON ,OX18 2NW United Kingdom
Main Station Address Adresse de station principale Hauptstationsanschrift	South West of Glebe Farm Dairy ,Bampton Oxon ,OX18 2HU ,United Kingdom
Issue date Date de délivrance Ausstellungsdatum	25/03/2008
First issue date Première date de délivrance Erstausstellungsdatum	25/03/2008
Licence number Numéro de licence Lizenznummer	1-50644238

Ofcom
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Ofcom Licensing Centre
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London, SE1 8HA
UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7981 3131
Fax: +44 (0)20 7981 3333

(c) Assessment of proficiency as a tradesman and ability to supervise.

An excellent tradesman with plenty of experience. He is a most reliable and efficient supervisor. He is a first class practical technician and a radio enthusiast.

Mr. Evans
(Signature of C.O.)

Place *Bampton* O.C. 3 SQUADRON
Date *22 March 1967* Unit *14th SIGNAL REGT.*

This Licence, issued by the Office of Communications ("Ofcom") on the issue date specified above, authorises the holder named above ("the Licensee") to establish and use stations or install or use radio transmitting and receiving apparatus for wireless telegraphy (the "Radio Equipment") in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Section 2 of this Licence.



Morse transmitter





I then approached the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society for the re-issue of our club number F027. For this they wanted the call signs of five Royal Signals active Radio Amateurs. I had no trouble in getting five of my old radio friends to sign up as members of the club. It also was granted.

We went on the air for the first time in March 2008 and quickly contacted the USA and Australia. G 3 L P C was back on the air at Weald after being closed for nearly 30 years and within a few yards of the original site. We called ourselves WEALD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. WARS.

We will always be grateful to Simon Collins for his help and understanding of a mad group that tied wires to his bushes for aerials and so on. To me, it says that the Royal Signals are still in Bampton and along with the Bus Shelter in Broad Street that we left for the people of Bampton, and the small cushion found on the Pulpit in St Mary's Church, upon which is embroidered "JIMMY", it says it all for us.

Our motto is Certa Cito - Swift and Sure

Ray Evans September 2009



Thank you to the following contributors

- The Radio Corporation Of America. (Permission to use Photographs of ET4750, ET4331)
- The Marconi Company. (Permission to use SWB 11, SWB8)
- Diversity Council Australia. (Permission to use Photograph of their SWB8)
- Wireless for the Warrior (Permission to use Photographs of receivers and BC610. Louis Meulstee, PA0PCR)
- Royal Signals Museum. Blandford (Stations Network Tests results)
- The Witney Gazette. (Oxford Mail) (Confirmation of 28th Feb 1976 article and 12th September 1969)
- Oxfordshire CC Department of Museum Services: Field Department (Confirmation of Archaeological finds)
- Bill Barbone OBE ex G2HKM (Provided the insight to equipment used in Italy during WWII)
- Steve Cumerlidge G7BBF (Who provided his father's Photographs of Italy. Silent key G3CK)
- Ray Webb G3EKL (Singapore 47/48 VS1BA, Hong Kong 1949, Cyprus 1953,4,5,6 ZC4BA)
- Jess Weir G4GJX (Signals Museum Blandford contact and operational background)
- Ken Brown G0PSW Silent key (His contributions to the "Stations Network" diagram)
- Ern Poole WA8TGA (Cairo 44/45)
- Dennis Dumbleton G3HCM (Ceylon 1947)
- Malcolm Squance G3HTB (Australia 44/45) (Possible connection to SWB8 found in Australia)
- Geoff Oakley (Life at Bampton 1946)
- Bob Bradrick Z12MUI (Cyprus 1957-59)
- George Armatage of Durham (Bampton 1947)
- Ray Evans G3LQC, VS1CO (Operations in Singapore 1948 to 1952) (Bampton 1954-1959) (Bampton 1963-1967)
- Don Herring (Provided photos of Bampton and other data.)
- Mrs Freda Bradley (for quoting her book and her knowledge of the Royal Signals in Bampton in 1939)
- Fred Orr (Paramali 1963)
- Fredrick Partington G4BZP (Bampton 1955-1956)
- Tony Finn. Jamaica. (Admin Officer 1955 Bampton)
- Arthur Cropp. (OC Bampton 1945/46)
- Dennis Walsh. Burton on Trent. G0IYC (Malaya 1947 – 1948)
- Bill Gibson. Witney. (Insight into operations during Korean War Bampton 1948-1951)
- John Wood (Bampton 1954 -1958)
- Geoffrey Collier. Scotland. GM0LOD. (Bampton 1955 & 1957)
- Alan O'Shaughnessy G0ITO. His contribution of photographs of the closing of the station
- Janet Rouse for helping with editing
- Bampton Archive for publishing my memories of The Royal Corps of Signals, Bampton

