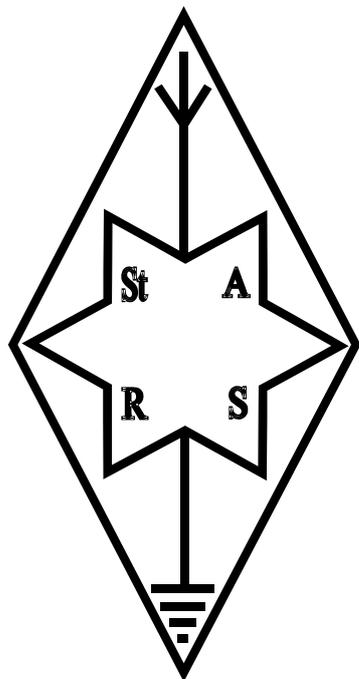


STARLITE

G6OI
1938

The Newsletter for Members and Friends of
**Stourbridge and District
Amateur Radio Society**
incorporating
Old Swinford Hospital School Radio Club

G6SRS
1938



G4CVK

1969

**ISSUE
02/2011**



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Visitors always welcome

MEETINGS

The Society holds its full meetings on the

1st and 3rd Monday's of each Month at

Old Swinford Hospital School

Heath Lane

Stourbridge

(8.00pm – 10.00pm)

Additionally the shack is open during the same times on the intermediate Monday's

*All correspondence/enquiries should be addressed to the
Hon. Secretary:*

John Clarke M1EJG

(01562) 700513

honsec@g6oi.org.uk

STARS Web Site

WAP enabled ??

STARS

C/O The Mill House

21 Mill Lane

Blakedown

Kidderminster

DY10 3ND

www.g6oi.org.uk

www.g6oi.org.uk/wap/index.wml

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of Starlite for 2011. As previously mentioned in the covering e-mail for the previous Starlite there was no Starlite for January 2011. There was only a single instance of receiving feedback from the quiz from John Scott regarding the answers I supplied to Question 16. Question 16 the correct answer to “The International Q-code used to indicate interference from other stations is” is QRM and not QRN as I stated. Did anyone else spot this – tut tut?

Thanks once again to Malcolm for his report and photographs and to John Bills for his article on a recent repair to the display on a FT-101. Thanks to Malcolm for the December picture of the view



from the upstairs window of his garden and radio shack. This years annual Christmas Lunch was held at the Old White Horse in Norton. Thanks once again to Malcolm for the photograph.



Adrian Bryan (G0NLA) Editor



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World War 2 SOE RADIO OPERATIONS

Background

The German occupation of France left a vacuum for many French citizens and today it is hard for us to imagine what it would be like to suddenly find oneself living in an occupied country. Resistance movements were formed but they would need money, weapons, explosives, coordination and last but not least communications equipment. Support for these groups was the responsibility of the then War Office. Initially support in 1940 was available but from different parts of the War Office and the work of supporting the Resistance was neither co-ordinated nor efficient. One can only imagine that there were a very large number of competing demands for very scarce resources. To make things worse there was no expertise within the UK to know what was required. A realistic and workable plan was needed urgently. SOE or Special Operations Executive was formed by the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill with stated objective to “Set Europe Ablaze”. The main focus for this article is SOE's operations in occupied France. It should be noted however that SOE was also active in the Nordic countries, Poland and the Czech Republic and other countries around the Mediterranean.

What were the challenges?

The SOE was founded in July 1940 by the civilian Dr. Dalton and had its HQ in London. The task that faced Dalton was enormous and an organisation had to be built from the ground up. For example consider the following issues. Which resistance groups would benefit from support? How could initial contact be made and continue to be made? How could secure communication be made with target resistance groups. Production of fake items such as Identity Cards, documentation; totally authentic French clothing would be needed. Agents needed to be trained in safe blowing, burglary, sabotage, setting booby traps and other clandestine activities. The problem faced by Dalton and his team was immense.

What was the role of Radio in the SOE?

Clearly radio communication would play a key role in the SOE's achieving it's objectives. This would require recruitment, training and last but not least fluent and credible French speaking volunteers. It is interesting to note from Wikipedia that radio production for SOE was based in Birmingham at Kay's Garage in Bristol Street – does anybody in the club know anything about this?

The radio set supplied to SOE Agents was known as the Type 3 MK II and was known as the B2 (not sure why). The radio comprised separate sections for transmit/receive and weighed around 40lbs (about 18 kgs). It was housed in a suitcase and was manufactured to reduce its weight but with regard to the fact that it may be dropped by parachute and subjected to rough usage. It is my understanding that the 40 lbs did not include the battery. Each unit carried a serial number, but there was some 'poetic licence' as the serial numbers were not sequential so as to give Germans the impression that there were more radio sets deployed than was actually the case. The sets were CW (Morse) only and came supplied with their own Morse key. For their day, the radio set were very advanced See <http://www.duxfordradiosociety.org/restoration/equip/b2/b2.html> for pictures of the unit. Placing equipment and agents in the field was usually undertaken by Lysander aircraft

The job of sending radio transmissions in occupied France was particularly hazardous as German



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detector vehicles could easily get bearings on a transmitting station within 10 minutes and a limit of 5 minutes for a transmission was a workable maximum although this limit was often exceeded. A transmitter would need to change location frequently to avoid detection. The job of sending out the required transmission in the 5 minute time window must have been particularly stressful. All messages sent and received would be encrypted. To limit risk, sometimes transmissions were shared between radio operators, with the second operator continuing the transmission at another location and on a different frequency. Ideally radio sets would be kept at various locations and the objective would be to safely enter the building where the radio set was located, make the transmission and receive any replies and put as much distance as possible between themselves and the radio. To be asked to re-transmit a message or wait for a reply would increase the risk of detection. One time pads were used to encrypt transmissions and agreed abbreviations were used to limit message lengths similar to today's radio hams but much extended. The more radio sets that were available the better as setting up sets at agreed locations reduced risk and also the weight of the sets was problematic. The output power of the B2 sets was around 20 Watts with a sensitivity of around 1.3 micro volts. The B2 sets covered around 3-16 Megahertz with the help of plug-in coils and crystals. The set was either mains powered or powered by a 6 volt battery. Battery operation could be a life saver if mains power was lost when power was being switched off floor by floor in an attempt to locate the transmitter in an apartment block for example. Ingenuity was used to disguise aerials and one operator used a fishing rod as an aerial and tapped into overhead lines as his power supply. Often transmitted signals were of poor quality having been sent from end fed wire indoor aerials. Clearly with the danger of detection ever present, fiddling about with the aerial to get the Standing Wave Ratio close to one was low down on the list of priorities!

One of the first SOE female radio operators parachuted into France was Noor Inayat Khan. Often women worked as couriers but working as a radio operator was unusual. As was typical with SOE radio operators she was only able to work for a few months before detection and imprisonment which would often end in torture and execution. She was born in Russia and moved to France fleeing to England in the wake of the German invasion of France and was awarded the George Cross and Croix de Guerre posthumously.

What were the Risks and Issues?

Sabotage operations by SOE Agents often resulted in reprisals. Involvement and support of the resistance could bring harsh penalties. As the war progressed rationing was to become more and more restrictive. Also Germany made demands on France to support its own war effort and this decreased the food available for the French population. Although this increased France's resentment of its German occupiers, the resistance was not universally liked and betrayal was a major risk. Information a captured agent revealed under torture frequently lead to the capture of other agents. There was also danger from the Vichy France Government. Some agents were captured on arrival in France and from then on the Germans ran a false network sending false information back to London and arranged for additional parachute drops which fell straight into enemy hands. One such false operation was able to continue for several years arranging for drops of additional agents who were captured on arrival.

Radio Detection

The German City Police – Ordnungspoleizi were responsible for the detection of clandestine radio signals in occupied France and they were particularly efficient at this task. Initial bearings were obtained from fixed locations which would narrow the signal to a 1-2 mile radius. The field



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of search was further narrowed by mobile units which would contain DF aerials located behind wooden panels. The final part of the detection may be on foot and an apartment could be narrowed down by individually powering off the electricity to each apartment one by one and waiting for the signal transmission to stop. In the case of a house the situation was made easier. Detection close to the radio transmitter was undertaken with a special device attached to the belt of the operator and was known as a *Gürtelpeilgerät*. Spectral analysers were also developed and employed in the detection of radio signals and the Germans were the first in the field with this development.

Conclusion

Radio played a major role in the war waged by the SOE. Various estimates for survival rates for SOE operatives sent on missions abroad varies between 50% to 75%. Whichever estimate is correct it is a sobering statistic. Clearly an article of this length can only give superficial idea of SOE radio operations, but I hope you found it interesting and possibly instructive. Further reading can be obtained at <http://www.nigelperrin.com/soeagents.htm> and contains the pictures of 19 SOE Agents. Clicking on the pictures gives a brief history of each agent.

As usual any errors are mine.

Adrian Bryan (G0NLA)

Sources -

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/special_operations_executive.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_SOE_establishments

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/soe_01.shtml

<http://www.ab4oj.com/1st/gurtel.htm>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/bloom.html>

<http://www.nigelperrin.com/soeagents.htm>

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FT-101, FT-107, FT-901 and FT-902 Display Problem

Radio Repair Tips from John Bills

Display Problems with an FT-101ZD Mk2, FT-101ZD MK3 FT107, FT707, FT-901 late Series and FT-902

Recently I was asked to take a look at a Yaesu FT-107 with a faulty display. The digits were jumping about like mad, so you did not know what band you were on let alone frequency.

I put FT-107 into Google and found a module which was made to fit the into the original same space as the original display driver chip. However the product was only available from Hed-Tafelmayer in Germany.

To replace the chip, remove the top and bottom covers, 2 AA battery holder, speaker and then the display board.

De-solder the 40 pin I.C. and solder in a 40 pin I.C. holder that is provided. Plug in the new module, re-assemble and test.

This cured the problem completely and has made an otherwise inoperative transceiver perfectly usable. The service I received from Hed-Tafelmayer was absolutely first class and the cost of the replacement module including P+P was 42 Euros, around £35

John Bills G3KZG

Note from the Editor

See <http://www.hed-tafelmayer.de/en/msm9520en.html>

for pictures of the display board, original Yaseu chip and replacement Hed-Tafelmayer chip.



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FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER

December 2010 Starlite Report December 2010-12-29

Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP

This is my last report for 2010. It's been a most interesting year especially returning to being a roving reporter once more for Starlite. I have always enjoyed gathering items of interest for our newsletter. It's just like when I first started writing reports for the newsletter as it was in the 1980s. What had prompted me to start was for ten years I had been and still do, write reports for The Vellum; the publication of The George Formby Society and I guess that it was when I was first made redundant from my first job after 35 years with the first company. In 1986 I had some spare time on my hands in between looking for work and I decided to start writing articles for the STARS newsletter and that's what I have been doing ever since. I also write reports for other publications and even the press at times. I first started writing reports for the Leominster News in 1959-60 about a series of dances I had been invited to run using my Mullard 5-10 amplifier at The British Legion in Leominster and I thought one way of advertising that would not cost anything would be to write a report for the local weekly newspaper. (See <http://www.r-type.org/static/5-10.htm> for a picture of the Mullard 5-10 – Editor) Later on in 1971 I found myself as an amateur reporter for BBC Local Radio station Radio Birmingham and later for BBC Radio Derby.

I have written for STARS since 1986 and I have had several editors of our newsletter STARLITE. The first editors were Bob & Dennis Eagan. I am led to believe that Dennis has recently become a silent key and this was mentioned at this year's Xmas dinner on Mon.13th December. I arrived at the dinner late because I had taken the wrong turning. I was on the Kidderminster road so after doing a u-turn I found the venue.

On the Friday 10th December, the Friday before the dinner, I was on Tipton Railway Station at 07:15 waiting for the 07:26 local train to Birmingham New Street, where I would change trains going to Coventry. I was going to the NEC, not to a exhibition, but to attend an Audition for Britain's Got Talent – see picture below of us contestants queuing up.



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I had to be there for 09:00 to get booked in for a 10:00 audition along with about 200 other entrants. At that time auditions were taking place at set times throughout the day and that's just from Birmingham. Other auditions take place at other venues around the country. It's the third time I have taken an audition in two years; it could be third time lucky! If I am successful to get through to a second round it will be at one of the theatres in Birmingham and that will be on TV in front of the panel of judges who you do not see at the first auditions, just a camera man and a judge. For me to play at the NEC its like playing on home ground because I have been visiting trade exhibitions there for 24 years.



I was informed over Xmas that one of our former STARS members, who now lives in Guernsey - Derek Pearson G3ZOM was rushed to a London Hospital by helicopter with heart problems. The hospital on the island could not cope with the problem which was for some time, touch and go. Derek is now back on the island but in hospital. Fortunately he was allowed home for a few hours on Christmas Day. I will keep you posted regarding his progress. His mother-in-law lives not far away from Glenys and myself and I often see her around and about. Derek was a member of STARS for a number of years and was introduced to the club by Mac (I forget His call sign – it was G3ZOM – Editor – see www.jandek.co.uk) Derek and his wife Jane started an successful electronics business making printed circuit boards. I often used to meet up with them at their stand at radio rallies; they traded under the name of Jandek (which if you had not noticed are the letters from their Christian names).

Moving on or back, whatever the case may be, on the 10th December - the same day as the Britain's Got Talent auditions on the other end of the day in the evening along with a colleague I was at a jazz concert at The Bonded Warehouse Stourbridge which I visit often to attend the monthly jazz concerts there organised for the past nine years by Simon Deeley. On the 10th it was Simon and his trio plus guest; one of the trio is a double bass player from Stourbridge Jim Sutton G7FMQ so there's always a radio connection at some of the events I attend. Whenever there is chance to have a conversation Amateur radio becomes a topic, but Jim is not the first double bass player to have an amateur transmitting licence - someone who had been playing the instrument for a number of years with leading dance bands in the Midlands and made several radio broadcasts and was still playing in jazz bands at the Trumpet in Bilston when he was in his early 80s and passed away two years ago,



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was Ted Rowley G6TC a member of the Wolverhampton Amateur Radio Society. He was often heard on air. His brother Ruben, who played piano in dance bands worked in the engineer's office at Contactor Switchgear. I used to see him playing with the Stan Fielding Band when I used to attend the Saturday night dances at Dudley Town Hall.

Going back to the Xmas Dinner at The Old White Horse reminded me of the 1950s when the Society dinners and committee meetings were held at The White Horse Brettle Lane (now called The Maverick); it stands on the corner opposite Lidl and the car park was in front of the MEB [MEC] sub station on the opposite side of the road. There was not the traffic volumes like there is today. Permission to use the car park was via Alec Higgins G8GF the society's President and employee with the MEB; just a memory of times gone by.

Well That's All For Now.

I Wish You All A Very Happy New Year.

Best 73s

Malcolm G8BOP Your Roving Reporter



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YOUR COMMITTEE

Hon. President	NICK	G6DQN	
Vice President	JAMES	G7HEZ	
Hon. Secretary	JOHN	M1EJG	(01562) 700513
Hon. Treasurer	JOHN	G8UAE	
Committee Members	ADRIAN	G0NLA	
	MALCOLM	G8BOP	
	ANDREW	M6APJ	

CALENDAR of EVENTS

It should be noted that the Shack will be open every Monday evening unless shown otherwise in the Calendar

February	Mon 7th	Karl Truby - Commercial Soldering Subject to Confirmation
	Mon 14th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 21st	Main Meeting - Constructors contest
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
March	Mon 7th	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 14th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 21st	Annual General Meeting - Vote for your new committee
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
March	Mon 7th	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 14th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 21st	Main Meeting - Not yet arranged
	Mon 28th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
April	Mon 4th	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 11th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 18th	Main Meeting - Not yet arranged
	Mon 25th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
May	Mon 2nd	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 9th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 16th	Main Meeting - Not yet arranged
	Mon 23rd	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 30th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
June	Mon 6th	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 13th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
	Mon 20th	Main Meeting - Not yet arranged
	Mon 27th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter
July	Mon 3rd	Informal - On air or natter
	Mon 10th	Open Shack Night - On air or natter



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