

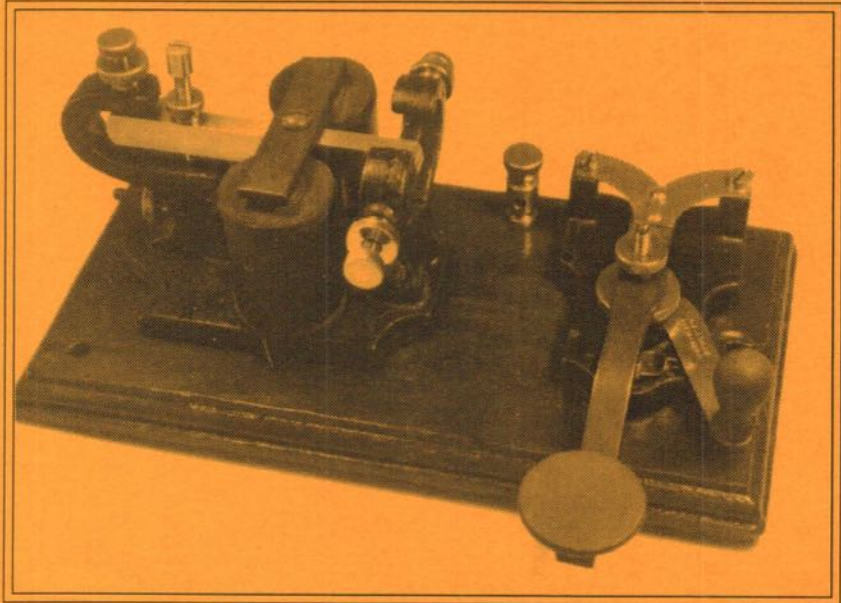
Flying
the flag
for
Morse

Number 66 - November 1999

Morsum Magnificat

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The Morse Magazine



Key & Sounder - A. B. Lyman Co., Cleveland



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Morsum Magnificat

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MORSUM MAGNIFICAT was first published as a quarterly magazine in Holland, in 1983, by the late Rinus Hellemons PA0BFN. It has been produced four, then six times a year in Britain since 1986, and up to January 1999 was published and edited by Tony Smith, G4FAI and Geoff Arnold, G3GSR. It aims to provide international coverage of all aspects of Morse telegraphy, past present and future. MORSUM MAGNIFICAT is for all Morse enthusiasts, amateur or professional, active or retired. It brings together material which would otherwise be lost to posterity, providing an invaluable source of interest, reference and record relating to the traditions and practice of Morse.

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Also, we shall jog your memory with a renewal reminder included with that final issue.

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FRONT COVER

Key and sounder made by A. B. Lyman Co. of Cleveland, Ohio in 1875-80

Photo/Collection: Dave Pennes, WA3LKN

Comment

It is sometimes suggested to me that, with the growth of the internet, magazines like *MM* have a bleak future. It doesn't feel like that from where I am sitting, quite the reverse. *MM*'s web pages are an extension to the magazine, the bit that you can't read in the park or take to bed. One major aspect of the internet has yet to be reliably resolved - archiving old pages for future generations. When a web page is changed, the previous information disappears but every issue of the magazine is lodged with the British Library for posterity. Future generations of researchers into Morse and the telegraphs may browse its pages for fragments of technical and social history not recorded elsewhere.

Successive ITU World Radio Conferences have found no time to discuss the possible abolition of the Amateur Morse test since the matter was first mooted at WRC95. WRCs have heavy agendas with far more important matters to deal with than amateur radio, so consideration of the IARU's proposed amended Article S25 has been put back from one WRC another since 1995. Add to that the fact that even though "agreement" has now been reached at IARU level (see report, p.4) the question of the Morse test still remains controversial within the amateur radio world, and one wonders if the IARU itself might be reluctant for the matter to reach a WRC in the foreseeable future. In any case, it has a more urgent matter it would like to have resolved at a WRC - the proposed extension and standardisation of the 40m band on a world-wide basis. Despite the suggestion that S25 might be considered at WRC2003, it could still be many years before a revision of the Radio Regulations controlling amateur radio, and the Morse issue, is resolved!

Zyg Nilski G3OKD

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News

DARC Not Opposing Morse

The HF Manager of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), Hartmut Buettig, has issued a statement to refute the claims made in the *W5YI Report*, of which extracts were published in MM65 (P.2). He says, "There was a phrase from W5YI that says on behalf of DARC : 'Today, no doubt, we will have to do everything to abolish Morse telegraphy as a prerequisite for HF, even against the rest of the world'. I suggest, that's what W5YI is thinking. DARC is not willing to ask our radio authority to abolish CW against any decision of the IARU."

"It is true that there was an internal DARC-FASC working group but their role was to propose ways to motivate young people to join DARC. This task has nothing to do with IARU FASC. During this year's DARC Annual Meeting (I was the Chairman), questions were asked by members and I used the occasion to clarify the situation. For me, the important point is the fact that for the coming Region-1 conference DARC has no mandate to oppose the proposal that there should be 'No change in article S25'. In my opinion this recommendation from Region-1 is basically the starting point for discussions in Regions 2 and 3. That means DARC has also no right to ask the radio authority

to abolish the Morse requirement. The only intention of the conference paper, by DK9HU and DJ6TJ, is to qualify the arguments. We must do this because W5YI and Co. won't stop their propaganda."

(To be fair to the W5YI Report, the statements reported in MM65, p.2, about "abolishing Morse telegraphy... even against the rest of the world", were attributed to the DARC FASC Working Group, and not to DARC itself. See also, letter from DL5QE, Chairman of the Deutscher Telegraphie Club on p.42. - Ed.)

EUCW Fraternising CW QSO Party 1999

The European CW Association is an association of radio clubs which aims to promote and encourage amateur CW. Members of the individual clubs are automatically members of the Association.

EUCW clubs are AGCW-DL (Germany); ARI (Italy); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); CWAS (Brazil); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC

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(Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

EUCW's 19th CW Fraternising Party will be held on 20-21 November 1999. Members of the above clubs are especially asked to support this event which is one of EUCW's principal activities of the year. Non-members of EUCW clubs will also be very welcome to take part:

Dates, Times, and Frequencies

20 Nov: 1500-1700 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

1800-2000 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz

21 Nov: 0700-0900 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz

1000-1200 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

Classes.

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output.

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (less than 10w input or 5w output).

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power.

D - Shortwave listeners.

Exchanges:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/Membership number.

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member).

Class D, Log information from both stations.

Call: CQ EUCW TEST. Stations may be worked or logged only once a day, per band, during the contest.

Scoring: Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other EU country. Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

Logs: to include date, UTC, band, call, info sent, info received, and points claimed per QSO.

Summary: to include full name, call, address, total points claimed, station details, power used, and signature.

Entries to be received by the EUCW Contest Manager, Guenther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Strasse 74, D-66564 Ottweiler, Germany, not later than 31st December, 1999.

Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scorers in each class.

Additionally, this event offers a good opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the unique *Worked EUCW Award* (see below).

(Info: EUCW)

Worked EUCW Award

The European CW Association's *Worked EUCW Award* offers an attractive award certificate printed on heavy parchment type paper depicting the map of Europe "at the time of Samuel F.B. Morse". There are three classes of award, *Standard*, for contacts made using any authorised transmission power; *QRP*, for contacts made using not more than 5 watts r.f. output transmission power; and *SWL*, for shortwave listeners".

Open to both members and non-

members of EUCW Clubs, the requirements of the award are confirmed CW only contacts (SWLs - CW stations heard) with 100 different stations who are members of EUCW clubs, over 3 different amateur bands with a minimum of 20 stations worked or heard in each band. The total of 100 stations worked or heard over 3 bands must include at least 3 members of six different EUCW clubs.

Only contacts made on or after Morse bicentennial day, 27th April 1991, count for the award, with up to 40 stations worked or heard on that day counting for double points. Full details of the award may be obtained by sending 2 IRCs to the EUCW Award Manager, Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Strasse 74, D-66564 Ottweiler, Germany.

The EUCW Fraternising CW QSO Party (see above) offers an excellent opportunity to gain qualifying points for this prestigious CW-only award.

New Approach to Morse Test IARU Follows RSGB Lead

Following the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 conference at Lillehammer, Norway, in September 1999, the IARU Administrative Council (AC) met at the same venue to consider, amongst other matters, the ongoing controversy over the future of the Amateur Morse test which is currently required as a qualification for operation on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Following discussions by three IARU regional conferences over a three-

year period, ending 1998, the IARU's "Future of the Amateur Service Committee" (FASC) had prepared a series of reports taking into account recommendations from those conferences and had adopted guiding principles for a possible revision of Article S25 of the Radio Regulations which governs amateur radio internationally.

Following the issue of the fourth FASC report, it became the view of the Council in 1998 that there should be no reduction in the minimum qualifications for a license to operate an amateur station. At the same time, it decided the best way forward was to seek to have the technical and operational qualifications for an amateur license stated in a mandatory "Recommendation" rather than in the Radio Regulations themselves, and requested the FASC to develop a draft of such a Recommendation for consideration by the Council and subsequent submission to the ITU.

The first paragraph of a draft Article S25 proposed by the FASC read: "S25.1 1. Administrations shall verify the technical and operational qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. A person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station shall be required to demonstrate a knowledge of the topics specified in ITU-R Recommendation M-XXX."

(A recommendation "incorporated by reference" in another ITU document carries the same force as the original document, but a Recommendation is easier to change than a Regulation. In this case, ITU-R Recommendation M-XXX would effectively be an integral part of Article S25 and would have the manda-

tory nature of a Radio Regulation.)

In view of the AC's expressed view that there should be no reduction in the minimum qualifications for an amateur licence, it was generally assumed that Recommendation M-XXX would include some form of Morse code requirement. The content of Recommendation M-XXX was not drafted at that time, in 1998, but at its meeting in September 1999 at Lillehammer the AC agreed on how it should be worded

Based on a proposal by the Radio Society of Great Britain, the 1999 IARU Region 1 Conference recommended a wording for the proposed ITU-R Recommendation that excluded any reference to the Morse requirement, and the AC agreed that this Recommendation should be submitted to ITU-R Working Party 8A in time for adoption before the ITU World Radio Conference which would be reviewing Article S25. The recommendation agreed by the IARU AC is as follows:

"This Recommendation is intended for incorporation by reference in Article S25 of the Radio Regulations.

The ITU Radio Assembly,

Considering

a) that No. S1.56 of the Radio Regulations (RR) defines the amateur service as: A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest;

b) that No. S1.57 (RR) defines the

amateur-satellite service as: A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purpose as those of the amateur service, c) that certain minimum operator qualifications are necessary for proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station;

Recommends

1. that administrations should take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station;

2. that any person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station should demonstrate knowledge in the following: Radio Regulations, licensing conditions, interference, operating skills, electromagnetic compatibility, safety, theory of electronic circuits and devices, transmitters, receivers, antennas, propagation, modes of communication, and measurements."

The omission of any reference to Morse in recommendation 2. will almost certainly ensure the abandonment of code testing as an international requirement without any discussion of the matter by the ITU-R Working Group when it considers the IARU proposals.

"The impact of recommendation 2., if accepted by the ITU, will be to give national administrations discretion to include or not include knowledge of the Morse code as a requirement under the heading "operating skills". A number of administrations, including Britain's Radiocommunications Agency have already indicated that in such an event they would not be continuing Morse testing for radio amateurs.

It has not yet been determined which World Radio Conference will be considering these matters, but the IARU AC has noted the possibility that "it could be as early as WRC 2003."

100th Anniversary of Radio in America

According to the California Historical Radio Society (please contact them, not me, if you wish to debate the point!) this is the 100th anniversary of radio in America. On August 23, 1899 a wireless transmission was made from Lightship No. 70 off the San Francisco bar to the Cliff House on the beach.

The message was simple: "Sherman is sighted" but history was made. The Sherman was bringing US troops home from the Mexican-American war and the city turned out to greet them in grand style.

That event was recreated. Through the good offices of Bart Lee, the CHRS, the Coast Guard and many others the Coast Guard cutter Point Brower/NMEX stood off the entry to the Golden Gate and transmitted the same message in Morse on 16.907 and 3.387Mc/s. This in itself was a big event since the Coast Guard abandoned the use of Morse years ago.

Tom Horsfall, WA6OPE and I participated as part of the Maritime Radio Historical Society. We set up a station consisting of a military AN/GRC-9 on the roof of the San Francisco maritime Museum. We used the antenna we have just erected that is destined to

work with the restored Radiomarine 4U radio console from a WWII Victory ship that will be part of a permanent exhibit on maritime communications at the museum.

We heard NMEX tuning up about an hour before the event. They were putting in a great honking signal so we knew we were in business. At 11:50 on the dot they sent "Sherman is sighted" on 16Mc/s and then again on 3Mc/s. But this time the op on board used his bug at the end of the message to send "ZUT CW forever"! A great, unexpected touch.

Now it was our turn. We came up on 3.540Mc/s and sent a message of welcome and acknowledgement as a QST. Taking the lead of NMEX I also signed off with "CW forever". Unexpectedly, NMEX acknowledged the message cross-band! Not wishing to tempt fate or the FCC I simply acknowledged that with the radioman's traditional "dit dit". It was a good day and great fun for all.

(Dick Dillman, W6AWO)

Order of Railroad Telegraphers Going Home

The Order of Railroad Telegraphers is going home to St. Louis! Jim Adkins, President of The Morse Telegraph Club has been working with Gregg Ames, Curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library to find a resting place for any archives and other items of The Order of Railroad Telegraphers that should be preserved. It is hoped that most if not all will now be donated to the Barriger Library, University of Missouri,

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St. Louis campus, which makes it ideal for students or others wanting to do research. It is also planned to have a key and sounder in working order for the display.

Jim Adkins has put out an appeal for any ORT items that Morse Telegraph Club members might have. He says, "...but be advised that the Library requires this to be an outright donation. If anyone can steer me in the direction of those items, I would appreciate it."

(Information: Richard Thomas)

New 2m Record for CW Meteor Scatter

A new North American 2 metre DX record for high speed CW meteor scatter communications has been set. It occurred the morning of May 9 when N0KQY in western Kansas made contact with Russ Pillsbury, K2TXB, in Southern New Jersey. The new record is 1430 miles. It eclipses by twenty-nine miles the previous record set by K2TXB and K5IUA in November 1998. This latest record-setting contact was made on 144.090 MHz. Transmission speed equates to about 6000 letters or 1200 words per minute using computer aided CW technology.

(VHF Reflector, Newsline)

Canada Approves Basic + 5wpm for 10M

Industry Canada has advised RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) that from Saturday, 11 September, 1999 it will grant approval for Amateur Radio Certificate holders with both Basic and 5wpm qualifications to operate on 10 Metres. Amateurs with Basic + 5wpm qualifications should check the Notice on the Industry Canada web site at <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum> before operating.

This approval is the culmination of an initiative by RAC in response to requests to RAC Directors by amateurs across Canada. The approval follows extensive RAC/Industry Canada discussions, discussions in CARAB meetings, and public consultation by Industry Canada. The 56 responses received from the public consultation were overwhelmingly supportive of the initiative.

RAC issued a statement to say how much it appreciated the efforts by Industry Canada to accommodate this expansion of operating privileges. For further information, see the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca>

*(Information: Guy Charron VA3FZA
RAC Bulletin Editor)*

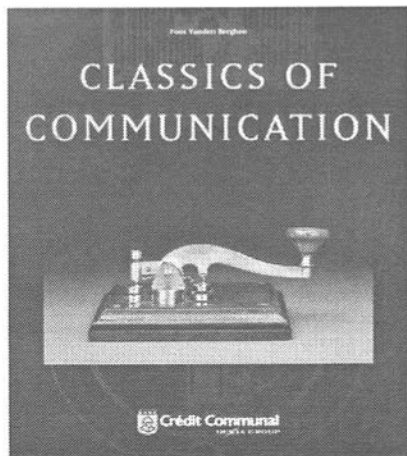


THE MORSE ENTHUSIASTS GROUP SCOTLAND

MEGS was formed in 1991 to encourage the use of Morse, especially by newcomers. Regular skeds are held using our callsign 'GMØRSE' each Monday and Thursday from 7 until 9 p.m. (local time) around 3.530MHz. Among other services, we offer Morse practice tapes free of charge, other than postage. This offer is now also available to *MM* readers. Membership is open worldwide, the 'Scotland' in our title simply shows place of origin. Lifetime membership £1.00. Details from Secretary: G.M. Allan GM4HYF, 22 Tynwald Avenue, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4RN, Scotland.

Exhibition Book Now in English

As part the Brussels exhibition of historical electrical and telegraphy items by Fons Vanden Berghen in Autumn 1999, the sponsors, Gemeentekrediet (Crédit Communal) Bank, produced a high quality book, written by Fons, to accompany the event. It was entitled 'Telegraphy' and published in Dutch and French. An English edition is now



available under the title 'Classics of Communication'. It is illustrated with 240 high quality photographs, 140 in colour, including many rare telegraph instruments. The text includes the history and technology of electricity through to wireless and early television, but a large section of the book is devoted to telegraphy. Without sponsorship, a book of this size and quality could not have been economically possible for such a limited readership - 107 pages, 24.5cms x 29.5cms (9.7in x 11.6in).

(Available from the MM Bookshelf, P.46)

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Special Transmission for 100th Anniversary of German Maritime Radio Service

The first experimental transmissions of the German Maritime Radio Service were conducted from a site near Cuxhaven on the North Sea coast in 1899. To celebrate the centenary, special broadcast transmissions will be made by the Deutscher Wetterdienst's (German Meteorological Service) long wave transmission facility located at Pinneberg, near Hamburg. The transmissions, which will be in Morse, are directed to all radio stations, i.e. CQ-type. Details are as follows:

Callsign: DDH47

QSS: 147.3 kHz

QRX 22:30 UTC

Dates: November 12, December 10, January 14 and February 11

Mode: Morse Code at 20 to 25 Wpm

Languages: German, English, French, Italian

The power will vary on different dates: 15 - 5 - 1 - 15 kW EIRP respectively.

Listeners can obtain a special QSL card sized 21cm x 30 cm, printed in two colours. Requirements for QSL: Report in RST, giving at least one name of a radio pioneer mentioned in the received transmission, a self-adhesive self-addressed label and 2 IRCs for European mail handling, 3 IRCs elsewhere. Send reports to: Deutscher Wetterdienst, Amateurfunkgruppe, Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 76, D-20359 Hamburg, Germany.

*(Based on information released by
Deutscher Wetterdienst - Martin
Hengemuehle, DL5QE)*

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Worldwide Comments on Amateur Morse

The *W5YI Report* recently asked over 100 national radio societies, worldwide, for information about amateur radio in their countries. They were asked how many licensed amateurs they had, and what their examination requirements are. They were also asked if their Amateur Service was growing, and how they felt about the international Morse code requirement.

The following is a summary of comments received on the question of Morse from respondents where any form of "official" response can be discerned. Where the personal views of the correspondents were given these are not included. Full details of all responses received are contained in the *W5YI Report* of September 15, and October 1, 1999.

Aruba. "The AARC and its members feel that Morse code should be eliminated as a requirement for HF privilege, but kept as an original mode."

Austria. "We will retain 12 wpm in accordance with the other CEPT countries until the final decision at WARC 2002. We think that WARC 2002 will be the end of Morse examinations. However, Morse will remain one of the most effective modes also for the future regarding bandwidth, language and technical requirements. There are several propagation modes which cannot be used without Morse."

Barbados. "The Morse exam is 12 wpm plain text and 5 figure number groups. There are no plans to change it."

Belgium. "Most hams wish to keep a

certain level of (CW) knowledge to have access to the HF bands. Nevertheless the European countries must follow the CEPT recommendation. And CEPT looks to the IARU Region 1 for advice."

Canada. "Radio Amateurs of Canada took the position that we would not oppose the removal of Morse code proficiency as a treaty requirement by ITU. We have not considered the advisability of retention or removal of Morse code as a technical proficiency requirement by the national regulator - Industry Canada."

China. "So far, CRSA has not reduced the code speed for the exams and we have no plans to do so in the near future. As a traditional radio contact method, especially in China, manual Morse code will be needed for a long time, therefore we still encourage our members to improve their skill. But we are considering not asking the young student to take the Morse code exams, but to give them a chance to practice and to let them become interested in it."

Costa Rica. "Currently there are no Morse requirements. The next law regarding amateur radio stations will include Morse requirements for Superior (A) and Intermediate (B) classes, as well as basic receive capability for Beginner (C) class. The Radio Club of Costa Rica will continue to support those who wish to learn Morse, as it always has, with Morse training sessions and courses whenever necessary. We consider it important that future generations of amateurs have the opportunity to experiment, not only with current modes of operation, but with modes which may have existed and which gave birth to amateur radio as we know it."

Cuba. "Our administration doesn't have any plans to reduce the code speed exam requirements at this moment. We had our 5th Congress last March.... in some of the Committees the code matter was discussed and we decided to discuss with the Radio Administration the possibility of having some kind of no-code license for little segments of some HF bands. But agreed in maintaining CW as a requirement for most of the ham licenses."

Cyprus. "The two licence classes are conferred by a CEPT-based exam. The Morse code requirement is 12 wpm. There are no plans to lower the code speed, but if CEPT agrees on a lower speed, we will definitely adopt it. We would prefer to abolish the code for a new entry level license that gives access to the Amateur bands. Code could be used for more privileges for a new higher class."

Czech Republic. "The requirements are in accordance with CEPT Rec. T/R 61-02. We don't plan to reduce the Morse code examination requirements."

Estonia. "Our ministry plans to reduce the code requirements to class A 12 wpm, Class B, and C, 5 wpm. We believe the Morse code examinations are absolutely necessary."

Finland. "There are no plans in Finland to reduce these requirements."

Gibraltar. "We think that Morse should be taken out completely."

Greece. "There is no indication about reducing the code speed. We consider Morse code as a useful knowledge."

Hungary. "We are staunch advocates of the need for manual Morse proficiency to obtain short wave (below 30 MHz) licenses."

Iceland. "We are proposing reduced code

speed and also fewer license classes.... Our views on the need for manual Morse code proficiency are very mixed indeed, but the majority seems to want some low speed test."

Israel. "Our ministry will decide the future of the CW requirements. We have heated discussions among the radioamateurs (and) the consensus is to keep the requirements as is. We are also awaiting the outcome of the IARU and WRC decisions."

Italy. "There are no plans to change or reduce the examination requirements."

Japan. "The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications determines the speed and has not changed lately. JARL is not requesting - nor planning to request - MPT to reduce the speed. JARL regards the International Radio Regulations' requirements of Morse code as very important, and considers that Morse code should be preserved as it is a helpful and useful way of amateur radio communication."

Lebanon. "We are of the opinion to maintain the Morse code application amongst amateurs who are genuinely interested in it without imposing it on those who are not."

Malaysia. "We Believe the current Morse test requirements should be maintained."

Mexico. "There are no current plans on the part of the Comision Federal de Telecomunicaciones to reduce code speeds as far as we know."

Mauritius. "So long as Morse proficiency is an international requirement, we have to abide by it; but we do not think that it is REALLY needed to become a ham."

Norway. "There are no plans to reduce the telegraphy requirements in Norway."

Pakistan. "Reducing the code speed (from 10 wpm) is currently under discussion with the Frequency Allocation Board who are the licensing authority here. We at PARS feel that (a reduction in code speed) is important for the hobby but we shall follow World trend."

Papua New Guinea (PNG). "PNGARS has asked that Morse code be eliminated as a qualifier for all HF access. While this is considered ideal, a reduction to 5 wpm is more realistic due to the ITU memorandum already in place and unlikely to be removed for some time.

Spain. "In URE we think the Morse must not be mandatory for obtaining an amateur license."

Sweden. "Effective April 1, the Morse code examination speed is now 5 wpm... giving access to HF. Our official view is that we have accepted the 5 wpm code proficiency test. We are however at this moment not in favour of abolishing the code test altogether, although we know that there are forces working in that direction."

Thailand. "We believe Morse code testing should remain a requirement for the time being."

Turkey. "TRAC is going to propose to reduce the Morse code speed to 5 wpm."

Ukraine. "There are no plans to reduce CW requirements.... We think that CW must still be alive in ham radio."

United Kingdom. "The RSGB continues to give full support to the code as a mode of operation. However the society does not support mandatory Morse testing for access to the bands below 30 MHz."

MM

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Who Named the Telegraph "Key"?

By Jan K. Moller, K6FM

THE BOOK, "The Telegraph in America" by James D. Reid was first published in 1879 by Derby Bros. in New York. A reprint was made in 1974 by Amo Press, also in New York.

Reid knew Samuel Morse and his friends Dr Leonard D. Gale and Alfred Vail since around 1838. Gale was a fellow professor at the University of New York City, where Morse chaired the Arts Department, and helped him with his experiments with the telegraph. Vail had been a student of Morse's and had worked with him on his apparatus for some time. Reid became interested in the telegraph, too, and eventually came to work for the new Magnetic Telegraph Company in their Philadelphia office in 1845, serving as Vail's aide. He was thus well familiar with the early years of the American telegraph industry.

In this book, pages 48 to 65, there is a reprint of a paper where Samuel Morse describes in detail, with sketches, how he worked out his invention of the magnetic telegraph. This paper was

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submitted to the International Exposition in Paris in 1868, of which Morse was a Commissioner.

The text makes it clear that Morse initially wanted a mechanical device where the message text could be put together in advance before converting it to electrical signals and transmitting the message. Considering the slowness of the, hitherto used, arm semaphore system, invented by the brothers Chappe in France and employed extensively, speed in that part of the operation was apparently not essential. It was also possible that Morse then wanted a fixed set of signals so he could repeat the transmissions during testing without introducing any human errors at that end.

Anyway, he designed a three feet long wooden tray, his "composing stick or portrule" that he loaded with lead letter types having protruding cogs and cams for each letter code that could push on an overhead lever. This lever would then close a contact for each cog etc. and generate the electric code signals. The "stick" was moved under the contact lever on a hand crank driven belt!

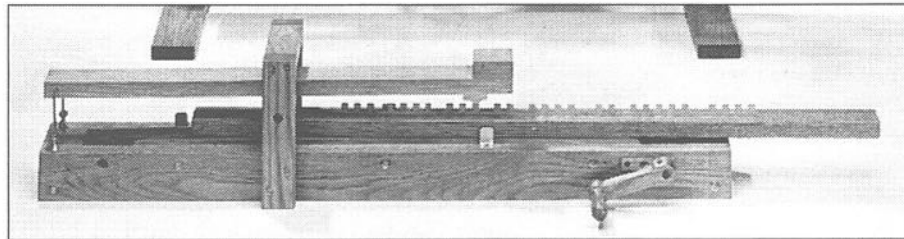
This machine was used in several system demonstrations, too, but Morse soon began working on a more

complex apparatus with a piano-like keyboard that worked against turning discs which had the letter codes cut into their edges. This device is mentioned also in the biography "Artist with a Message, Samuel F.B. Morse", by John H. Tiner, Mott Media, 1987, and was called an electric piano by Professor Morse's students. And the word "key" had already been used in connection with piano keyboards for more than a century!

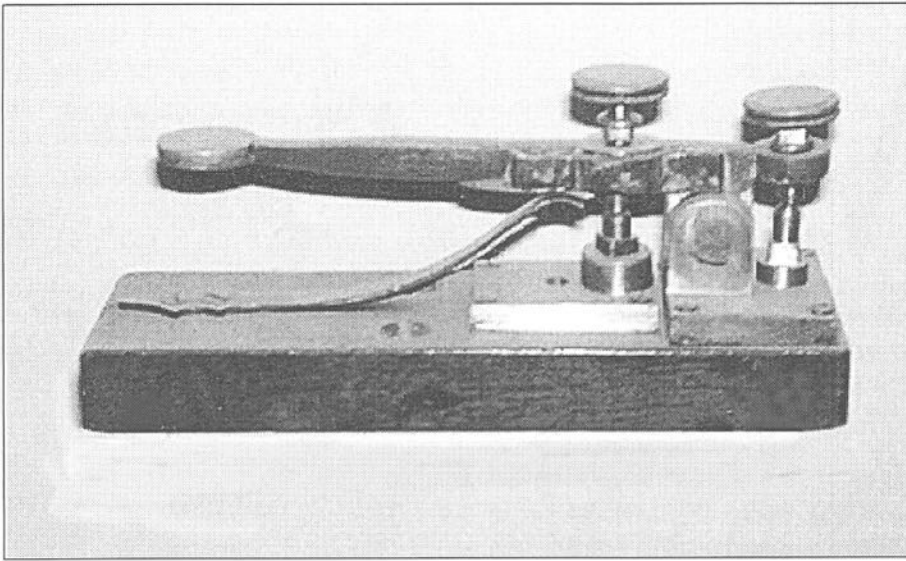
Morse was never satisfied with the keyboard machine and when, finally, he and Vail came up with an operator actuated lever switch, they called it "the correspondent". The first correspondent was a brass spring working against a fixed contact on a board, what radio hams call a "strap" key, but later Vail designed a more professional looking device, a solid brass lever, pivoted, and mounted on a sturdy wooden base. This is the unit that was employed on the Washington-Baltimore demonstration line.

In his 1868 paper, Morse uses the words: "At the time of the construction of this first telegraphic instrument, I had not conceived the idea of the present key manipulator, dependent on the skill of the operator, but I presumed that the

Photo/Collection: Fons Vanden Berghen



A replica of Morse's composing stick or 'Portrule'



Vail's Lever 'Correspondent' used on the Washington-Baltimore line.

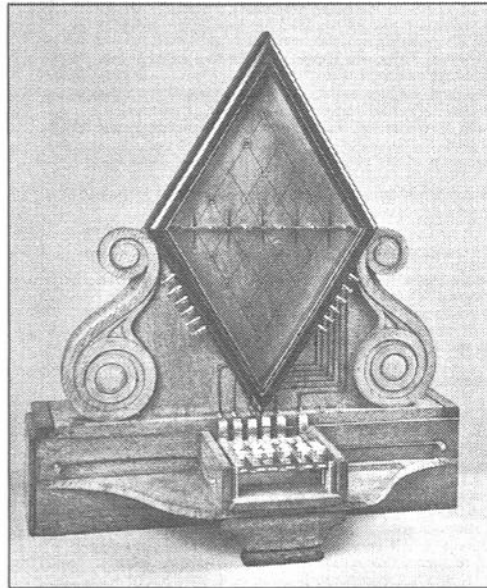
accuracy of the imprinting of signs could only be secured by mechanical mathematical arrangements and by automatic process.”

According to the excellent book “Early Electrical Communication” by E.A. Marland, London 1964, the Cooke & Wheatstone English needle telegraph patent of 1837 contains the phrase “A five-needle telegraph with five finger keys”. Morse was well aware of this patent and could have taken a clue from it.

It thus appears that Morse himself may have been the source of the designation “telegraph key”. He was very proud of his invention and considered it the first real telegraph in the world as it did record the received messages. It would have been a natural for him to call his sending device the telegraph key.

MM

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*A replica of the Cooke & Wheatstone
5 Needle Telegraph*

MANY TALES HAVE been told of the intrepid south by abler pens than mine but, for what it is worth, here is a glimpse of life as a ham on the ice. In the 17 years of scientific research at Scott Base (this was written in 1974. Ed.) there have been numerous amateur operators who no doubt will be recorded in the history of wintering-over when an official version is published at some later date. The two original foundation members of the fraternity were Peter Mulgrew, ZL2SP, and Ted Gawn, ZL2US (both now SK).

I was thrust into the hurly burly of Base routine prior to Christmas 1972 as a rush replacement for the appointed postmaster who was repatriated. A hurried week of medicals, x-rays, a dental check up, and a brush up on Post Office procedures, plus settling of my private affairs, was a prelude to the trip south.

Busy Season

The summer season is an extremely busy one for the P.O. staff as you can well imagine. There is a fluctuating population of some 1500 at the American McMurdo Station, two miles away, as well as the 30-40 on Scott Base, who all want stamps and toll calls at the same time(1). In addition, the different ships are visited in port, when this is opened by the icebreakers, to sell stamps and the PRO's(2) books.

My official job as postmaster was

A Ham on the Ice 1972/73

**By Neville Copeland
ZL2AKV**

shared until early February with Lester Price, ZL5AP. From then on I was alone with my technician, Allan Dawrant, to sort out the communication problems. Perhaps I may go down in history as the last full-time Morse operator working an "inland" station, as Olivetti teleprinters have now been installed for telegraph traffic.

After Les returned to New Zealand, I was saddled with three daily CW schedules with the International Telegraph Office in Wellington, where I had been previously employed (see "Reminiscences of Wellington Telegraph", MM63, p.26). I also had daily afternoon radio telephone schedules with Island Services Wellington and three evening R/T skeds, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Struggle to Pursue Hobby

It may be of interest to CW

operators with a service background to know that the Z code was used almost exclusively for control of the telegraph circuit, with the odd Q signal sandwiched in. There were two old, 1938 vintage, teletype Wheatstone keyboards. They were very worn and hopeless for traffic, but they could be used for punching up call bands for loading into the Morse auto when opening a sked.

The above routine had to be fitted in with Base chores, and many's the time I've huffed and puffed my way into the radio room clad in down gear and mukluks(3) to meet a sked. Consequently, it was a battle between work and propagation to get on the air and pursue my hobby.

The DSIR(4) forbid amateurs

operating during the busy summer season to preserve security for their communications. Accordingly, I commenced amateur CW transmissions in late February. Having brought little equipment with me, due to such short notice, I worked on 14040 kHz using a 7020 crystal in one of the old RCAs hooked up to the transmit rhombic. However, this arrangement was cumbersome and inflexible and only lasted a short while.

Borrowed Rig

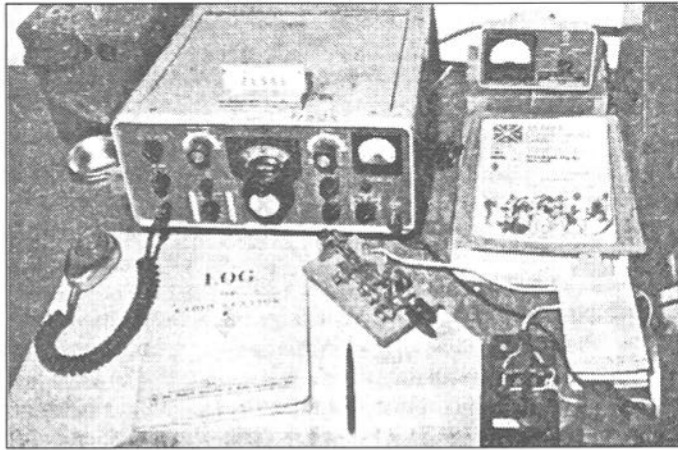
A little later I was lucky enough to borrow a Collins KWM2A from our American friends through the gap(5). They use these sets extensively for field party working - the only snag is they require a 110v generator to be lugged in the rear for



Neville Copeland, the last full-time Morse operator at Scott Base Post Office

the necessary power.

At Scott Base we were ambidextrous power-wise, and the 110v was no problem. I set myself up in a corner by the RCAs on the technician's small work bench. Being close to the aerial patch, too, made a difference to the coax hookup when the commercial skeds were finished.



Operating as ZL5AL with the Collins rig and a Vibroplex from the Americans at McMurdo Station

The Collins set would put out about 150-200 watts, and when conditions were good I had no trouble raising North and South America, Europe, Russia, as well as Australia.

I suppose I was fortunate in having some 630 QSOs during my stay down south. I have no yardstick to go by, but I am still receiving the odd batch of QSLs via the bureau. I worked some of the Russian Antarctic stations, but missed the Aussies, although I did chat via teletype to a NZ'er working for them at Mawson.

Welcome Leak

The main problem was the adjacent ionosonde which gave a 22 second vertical burst every so often. The American machine, some two miles way was a horizontal affair and gave no trouble.

We in the Post Office were full of glee, one day in January, when the

laboratory's roof leaked during a thaw and their aerial lead-in bowls filled with water, putting the damned thing out of action for a few days.

We had our problems too with leaks, but they were mostly in the public foyer and over the PRO's desk. Luckily the radio room roof held for the week or so of panic. If I remember, there was a photo published nationally by the NZ Press Association showing Butch the cook sailing boats in his flooded kitchen!

Use of American Stations

At McMurdo Station, Mel Pennington WB5APF/KC4 ran KC4USV with a devoted band of helpers (including the padre) at their hamshack above the road to Scott Base. I am an official member of that shack, having gained my patch by punching up MARSgrams at various times. The Navy have MARS circuits just outside the ham band on 14 MHz and most of the phone and fsk patches back to

the States are worked in this region or on 40 metres.

The only other ham was Don Baker, WB5JJK/KC4 from Stanford Research Institute who ran the satellite tracking station. He operated a beautiful 100ft (30.5m) fully rotatable beam at Arrival Heights for contact with his parent university. He was also in the phone patch business (but not fsk) and sandwiched this activity in whenever possible. At his own laboratory in downtown McMurdo he ran a KWM2A with a 1000w linear amplifier on the side for general hamming. I was offered a linear too, but due to space considerations couldn't fit it in at our Base.

As you can see, I was doubly fortunate in having open house at these other three outlets for the occasional QSO. During my term I acquired a bug from the Americans to send some 12,500 groups of stocktake traffic from the Leader back to Christchurch, and also used this on the ham rig.

Christmas Festivities

Midwinter, the Christmas of the Antarctic continent is a time of great festivities. I was late mouse(6) and can vouch for the sorry state of the mess, and myself, the next morning. At the dinner, each Base member presented another with a hand-made present. I drew the cook's name out of the hat and made him a 3-foot inscribed wooden spoon.

In turn, I was given a wonderful electronic gizmo by a laboratory technician which spells out "courage sacrifice devotion" (as inscribed on the American polar medal) at 12 wpm in honour of my being a CW fiend.

I nearly ended up with a 5-second self-destruct tape recorder, based on "Mission Impossible", but there was some problem with the CO2 bottle I believe!

QSL Problem Overcome

Having left the mainland in a great hurry, I had the problem of providing QSL cards. Luckily, Whitcombes(7) came to the rescue with a rush rubber stamp that ended up on stock-take cards when the small stock of cardboard was used up. I sent the bulk of the cards out on Winfly(8) at the beginning of September, with later QSLs following me out in late October.

I was thankful at times to have my hobby during the dark days, although communications dropped out in May and didn't come back in strength until the beginning of August.

Other memorable experiences include an adventurous field trip manhauling to Castle Rock(9); visiting the historic huts; visiting the dry valleys(10); assisting with the annual seal kill (for dog tucker); winning the "best groomed beard" award; sunset and sunrise parties; a rough 60-mile trip over the sea-ice to Marble Point(11); exploring ice caves; and lastly waiting impatiently during a week of blizzards to return to New Zealand.

Explanatory Notes

(1) The Americans had their own Post Office, but they came to us for international telephone calls - our comms were more reliable than the Ham Shack and Marsgrams.

(2) **PRO.** The Public Relations Officer was a journalist paid for by the DSIR to

promote the scientific year by press releases to our national papers.

(3) **Mukluks.** Fabric covered padded boots, nearly knee-high, coloured bright orange to stand out in searches.

(4) **DSIR.** Department of Scientific Research.

(5) **Through the gap.** The 2 mile twisting volcanic road between Scott Base and McMurdo, often impassable in winter, passes through a gap between Observation Hill and Arrival Heights. The American ham shack KC4USV was halfway up Arrival Heights and was a favourite calling-in spot. This was where the Navy people operated their ham patches and Marsgrams - when conditions were favourable!

(6) **Late mouse.** Base staff were rostered every second/third day for firewatch duties and had to creep around "like a mouse" so as not to wake the others, hence the name. Shifts were 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., and 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. Other duties included topping up the humidifiers in the sleeping quarters, checking the generators hourly for fuel/lubrication, etc, ablutions and mess cleaning, preparing breakfasts, and on Sundays both mice had to cook all meals as the cook had the day off. The evening mouse also had to collect Base members from McMurdo

after social visits - a sort of on-demand taxi service!

(7) **Whitcombes.** Prominent stationers in Wellington. I still have that QSL rubber stamp somewhere among my memorabilia.

(8) **Winfly.** C130 Hercules flights beginning in September each year to fly in advance personnel to prepare for the staffing changeovers.

(9) **Castle Rock.** A vertical area of rock some seven miles from Scott Base, sheer and very difficult to climb. It has a spectacular view from the summit and is a favourite haunt for photo opportunities.

(10) **Dry valleys.** A dozen or so valleys across McMurdo Sound to the west of both bases, all ice-free due to the katabatic winds that roar in that area. New Zealand had a small scientific research base at Vanda, and the Americans had a base in the Taylor Valley alongside.

(11) **Marble Point.** The entry point to Vanda for delivering supplies of food/fuel. Inaccessible in August due to a cluster of icebergs blocking the route.

(Edited by Tony Smith for MM from "Break-in", journal of New Zealand's national radio society, NZART, October 1974. Explanatory notes provided by the author 1998.) **MM**

FISTS CW Club – The International Morse Preservation Society



FISTS exists to promote amateur CW activity. It welcomes members with all levels of Morse proficiency, and especially newcomers to the key.

The club has awards, nets (including a beginners' net), dial-a-sked for beginners, straight key activities, QSL bureau, newsletter, and discounts from traders.

Further information can be obtained from **Geo. Longden G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Road, Darwen, Lancs BB3 2LZ.** Send an s.a.e. or two IRCs.

HARRY LEWIS, W7JWJ taught my amateur radio class about twenty years ago. I recently saw him at a club meeting and he asked if I had any information about the "Catlin" method of sending Morse code.

The following is excerpted from several e-mails Harry subsequently sent me to elaborate on his question:

"I entered the Spokane Radio & Telegraph School immediately after graduating from high school. There I learned shorthand, typing, teletyping, teletype repair, radio repair and, more importantly, the American Morse, Creed and Continental Codes. My code instructor was a Mr Ott who was age 65 in 1941. He carefully explained that many telegraphers get a glass arm, but those who learn to send using the Catlin method do not. He did not explain why not. He then showed us the Catlin method, but never explained who Catlin was. Upon graduating some 9 months later my typing speed was around 125 and code speeds around 45 to 50.

Last User Alive?

"I obtained a position with Postal Telegraph in Spokane. War had just started and because of my code ability I was transferred to the main west coast terminal in San Francisco located on Market Street. Postal Telegraph was in the process of merging with Western Union. Western Union also owned Mackay Radio. Some of the country's

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The Catlin Method of Sending Morse Code

By Lynn Burlingame

N7CFO

very best code operators worked there. My boss, and wire chief, had been with Postal since 1905. As soon as he saw me send he said, 'Good! You're using the Catlin method. Keep it up kid and you'll do OK and never get a glass arm.'

"I observed the best old-timers were also sending the way I was taught and they also showed me a few tricks on how to hold speed keys and the different methods when different codes were being used. They also commented on my use of the Catlin method. I have never seen the Catlin method described in writing in any telegraph book I've ever seen or read, only references to it. A few years ago, I made a video of how to use the Catlin method of sending and used it to demonstrate to my students how the key is held and the wrist manipulated. "

"During the last 40 years, other than students that I have taught, I have never met another radio amateur that used this method. I'm now beginning to wonder if I'm the last old geezer alive

that uses the Catlin method of sending!"

Fred Catlin

Following Harry's query, I was able to locate a biography of Mr. Fred Catlin in Taltavall's 1894 book, 'Telegraphers of Today.'

"Fred Catlin of the United Press, New York, was born in Great Bend, Pa., March 26th, 1848. He learned to telegraph on the Erie Railway, and worked at various points along the road. He came to New York city a quarter of a century ago, and was with the Western Union Telegraph Company over nineteen years,

for twelve years a chief operator, acting in that capacity in all the divisions of that office.

"Mr Catlin had charge of the sending tournament of 1884-85, and has taken a great interest in these matters. As a rapid sender Mr. Catlin has great renown. He is well known throughout the land through the 'Catlin Grip' which is accepted as the correct method of taking hold of a key, so that the best results can be obtained with the least fatigue to the operator. Mr. Catlin has been with the United Press for the past four years."

The Catlin Method

I dug into the bookshelf further and found a United States Army Training Manual, No. 26, 'RADIO OPERATOR STUDENTS MANUAL FOR ALL ARMS, Part II, CODE PRACTICE, Volume 1', dated 1925. It had the following diagram and sending instructions. I sent a copy to Harry Lewis and he verified that this was the Catlin method as he was taught it:

"The telegraph key used in sending is shown in Fig. 3, which also shows the correct method of holding and operating it. Ability to send will depend to a very great extent on the student acquiring the proper movement of his wrist and hand in operating the key. This movement can be best



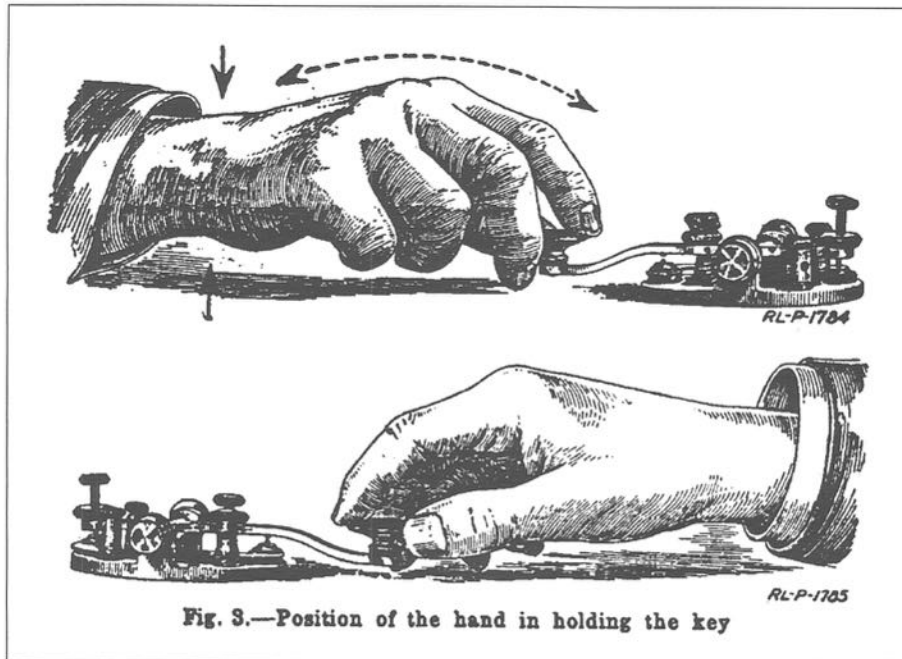


Fig. 3.—Position of the hand in holding the key

described in conjunction with Fig. 3.

“On this figure several arrows appear. Their explanation is as follows: When the key is closed, the hand executes a forward and downward rocking motion. The wrist moves upward. On opening the key, these two movements are reversed, the hand rocking backward and upward and the wrist moving downward.

“The importance of operating the key in this manner can not be overemphasised and the student should make every effort to acquire this motion exactly as illustrated. It is important that the back of the hand and wrist be kept horizontal and not tilted. In order to properly operate the telegraph key, it must be adjusted in a certain manner. Correct adjustment of the key is obtained as follows.

a. Adjust the two trunnion screws which form the pivot of the key lever. See that the lever moves freely up and down and with a very slight amount of side play. In adjusting these screws, be sure that the upper contact of the key, which is mounted on the key lever, is kept directly over the lower contact mounted on the base of the key. When the correct adjustment of the trunnion screws has been obtained, lock them by means of the locking nut on each screw.

b. Unlock the screw on the back end of the key lever and adjust it until the knob of the key moves up and down approximately one sixteenth of an inch when the key is operating. Lock the screw in this adjustment.

c. Unlock the screw which passes through the key lever just in the rear of the key

contact and adjust it until the amount of pressure required to close the key is comfortable to the operator using the key. The exact adjustment of the knob will vary with different operators and must be determined by the operator to suit himself.

“The student will be required to execute all sending practice given in this Unit Operation with a small washer or

penny balanced on the back of his wrist where the wrist joins the hand. The purpose of this is to prevent the hand being turned to either side while the key is being operated. If during the operation of the key the washer falls off, the student should stop sending and replace the washer.”

(From the *N7CFO Keyletter*.) *MM*

World's Youngest Telegrapher?

By Macalee Hime, AB5TY

The town of Williams Ranch, near Goldthwaite, Texas, was built on the Herd Pen Branch of Mullin Creek about 1860, and became an important settlement of 250 people. It was a major stop on the stage line from Austin to Brownwood, and was on the telegraph line which connected Austin, Texas with Fort Concho.

The office at Williams Ranch was in the Florida Hotel. Captain A. A. Hutchinson from the state of Florida built the hotel in 1874. It was the first hotel in Mills County at the time; a large two-story building of many rooms. Hallie, the daughter of Captain Hutchinson, was the telegraph operator at the hotel. She was nine years of age.

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The first telegraph line through this section of the state was built from Austin via Lampasas, Williams Ranch, Brownwood and on to Fort Concho (later San Angelo) about 1874.

Later the line was converted into a telephone line and the office was moved to Clements Drug Store in Goldthwaite. The entire equipment consisted of only one telephone nailed on the wall of the store which was built of raw lumber.

Hallie Hutchinson grew up to be a talented young woman and was, according to Mills County history, the first woman telegrapher in the United States.

Quite possibly she was not the first, but surely the youngest! *MM*

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The CW Centre

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· RJ2 Pump, chrome base	64.95

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· Pedersen DK1000	£99.95
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Samson keyers

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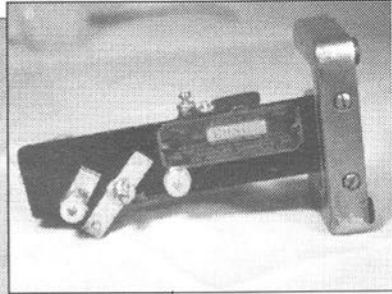
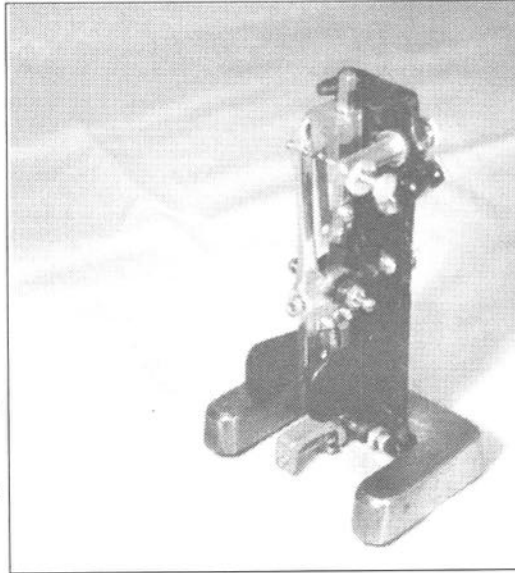
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Showcase

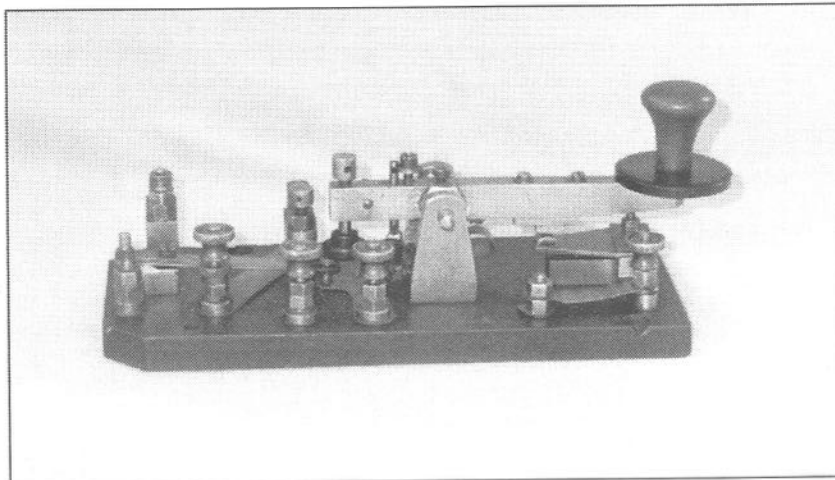
Photo: Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO Collection: John Elwood, WW7P



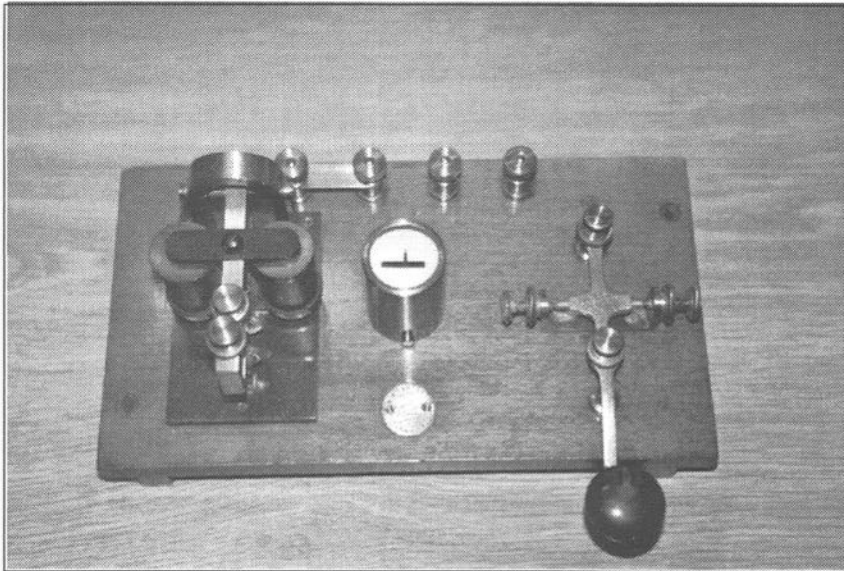
Vibroplex Upright or Vertical, circa 1916-1919. It was designed to take up as little desk space as possible and was nicknamed the

"wirechief's" key, probably because he was more likely to have a cluttered desk.

Photo/Collection: George Robbins, G3LNG

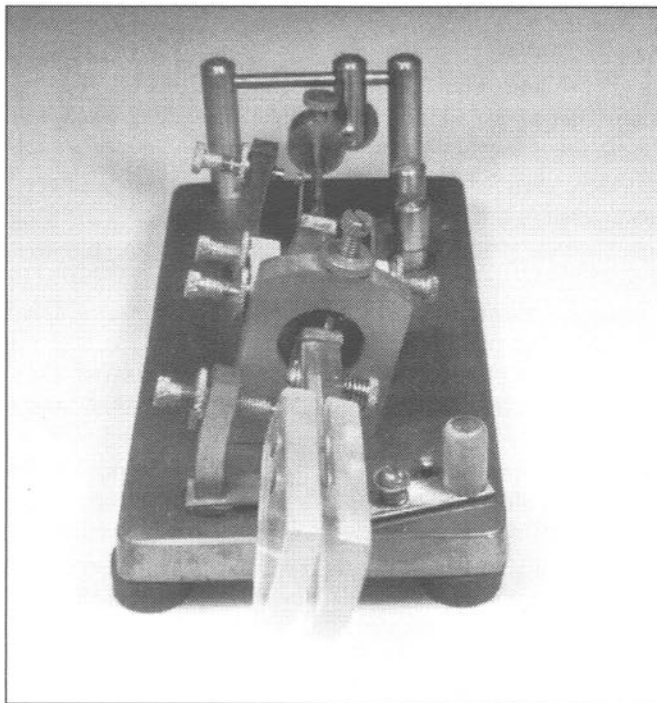


The predecessor to the famous RAF Type 'D' key, this one is an RAF Type 'B'



Photo/Collection: Malcolm Brass, G4YMB

A Gamage's KOB advertised in their catalogue as a Scout's Telegraph Set, comprising 10 ohm sounder, galvanometer and single current key with gold-silver contacts. It could be used for direct working between two stations, or as a learners set. (See article on Gamage's in MM65 by Tony Smith).



Photo/Collection: Dave Parnes, WA3LKN

Bug key made by Dow of Winnipeg, Canada, with a tilted yoke (serial number #450). There have been no user modifications - this is how it came out of the factory.

KPH, "The Wireless Giant of the Pacific", is gone. Been closed for a year and more if memory serves. This is the station with the famous spark note, with the Axelanderson alternators for point-to-point work and later with 40kW on 500Kc. via transmitter BL-10. After 80 years of service it went dark.

But the Park Service is about to take possession and they're interested in preserving the history of the Bolinas transmitting site and the Point Reyes receiving site, one of the most spooky experiences I've ever had.

Den of Thieves

Those who follow such things know that in its golden years the main Morse operating room at KPH was known as the "den of thieves". There, ace operators worked ships all around the world from positions arrayed around a central message carousel. All outgoing messages were filed in the carousel by call sign and, when a ship called, the message was plucked from its slot and sent. Right after the traffic lists things would really be hopping. Operators would steal ships from each other and the carousel would spin like mad while Frank Geisel, "Mr. KPH", would preside over the mass of confusion, waving his cane and yelling "get that one on 16 megs!"

We knew that KPH had fallen on hard times since then... the hardest times in fact since the station was now

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KPH

Wireless Giant of the Pacific

By Dick Dillman, WA6AWO

dark. But Tom Horsefall and I didn't know what to expect in the hallowed ground of the den of thieves now. I figured it would be gutted to the bare walls. Tom said whatever equipment there was would be piled in a closet.

Spooky - Very Spooky

We approached the operating room, turned the corner and found... everything as if they had left it yesterday. All the receivers were on. The keys were on the operating tables ready for action. Messages were in the carousel... messages for ships that would never again call. In the SITOR room the printers showed regular messages, then "error... error", then nothing. It was like boarding an abandoned but intact ship at sea. I expected to find a warm cup of coffee at an operating position.

But there was no warm coffee and no ships called and the thieves had long ago left the den. KPH has passed

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away and with it has passed one of the best, most honorable eras in radio communications.

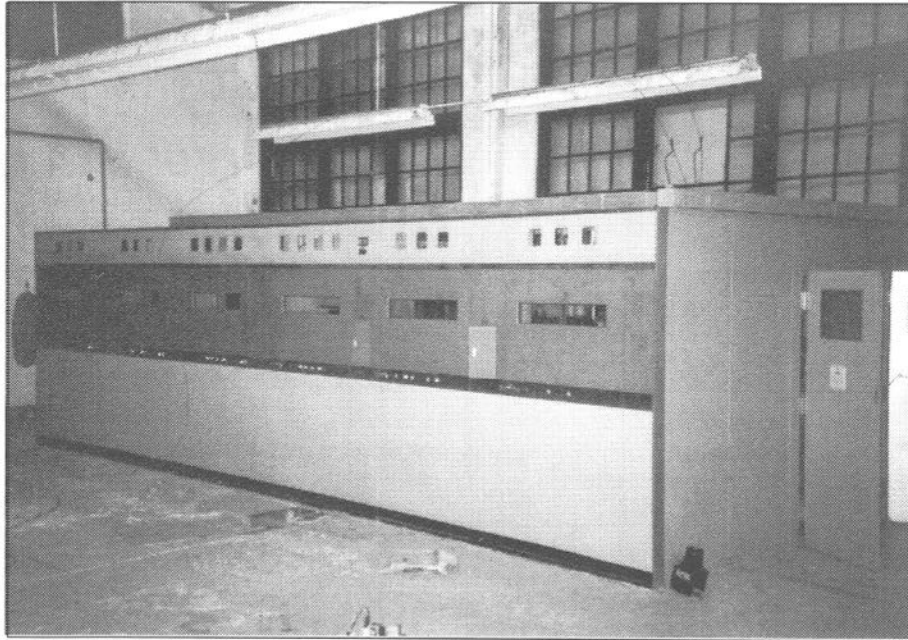
BL 10 Transmitter - Humming Giant

BL-10, Bolinas Transmitter No. 10. A 40kW streamlined beauty that took up an entire wall in Building No. 1 at the RCA transmitting site, the same building that housed the great rotary gap and the Alexanderson alternators. BL-10 that held forth on 500kc. from 1959 until a few years ago. BL-10, a transmitter that you walked around inside of like a room when you serviced it (remembering always to touch its delicate parts with the shorting stick first). BL-10 is dead.

We finally got the right key and made our way inside Building No. 1. The

building itself is in a sorry state with much spalling of the exterior concrete and peeling of interior paint. Inside, in the first gallery, we saw the covered-over pits that once were bridged by the two Alexanderson alternators that were in service through WWII. We identified what we think must have been the soundproofed spark chamber for rotary gap, the note of which was famous across the Pacific. Overhead the original gantry crane still moved at the tug of its chain, standing by to re-install the alternators should it be called upon for that duty.

It was a struggle to push open the spark chamber door and make our way through several abandoned inner rooms until we emerged finally into the second gallery. And there it was, lit



The remains of transmitter BL10, the 40 kW 'streamlined beauty', stripped of its main components.

by light streaming in shafts from the ventilation windows far above. It was a sad sight. The BL-10 of my memory was a giant, humming, elegant transmitter with twenty (twenty!) meters in a row all along the top of the cabinets, latching doors with windows that you could open to check and adjust whatever needed checking and adjusting and the clicking of relays as it was keyed and changed to the KPH working frequency from 500kc.

Sitting Quietly

Now it was sitting quietly in a room alone, debris on the floor ranging from parallel feed wires and insulators to

an unexplained single shoe. Flaking paint chips covered the floor and the transmitter like snow. All the meters were gone. All the meters and tubes were gone. Most of the tuning coils were gone. The plate transformer was gone. The heart had been removed from BL-10 and it was dead.

I took a single picture with the 4 x 5 Speed Graphic (using a flash bulb as Graflex intended, not a strobe), and made my way back through the spark chamber into the blinding, beautiful Pacific coast sunlight. We snapped the padlock back on the door and walked away in silence. *MM*



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Wanted - articles and tips on making and restoring keys - contact MM

IN THE PAGES OF MM we often find memories of life at sea, but how did one become a ship's Radio Officer? What were their conditions of service? How much did they earn?

These and a number of other questions are answered in the prospectus of the North Eastern School of Wireless Telegraphy at Bridlington, Yorkshire, England, issued in the immediate post WW2 period. The school was founded in 1911, and one wonders how many young hopefuls passed through its doors over the years, taking up wireless careers on completion of training?

The prospectus describes several of these careers including, of course, that of a Marine Radio Officer. "The pay and prospects are good, there is no worrying apprenticeship, the hours as a rule are regular, and the work, whether on sea or land, interesting.

"Radio Operators at sea are employed by private Radio Operating Companies and rank as Officers, and as such enjoy many privileges.

Good quarters, food and attendance are provided free. Every Officer qualifies for a pension.

MM66 – November 1999

The North Eastern School of Wireless Telegraphy

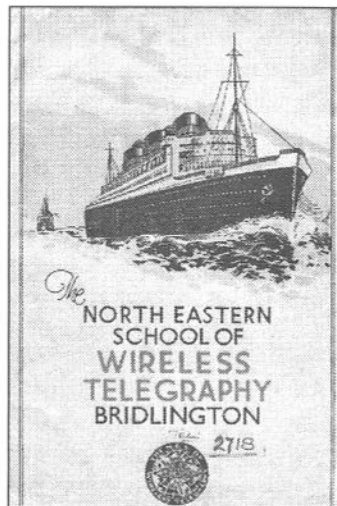
by Tony Smith

"The life at sea is an attractive and varied one. In port there is very little work to do, and splendid opportunities are presented for seeing the conditions of life in all parts of the world... the Radio Officer is in complete control of the apparatus so that it is erroneous to think of him as an ordinary Telegraphist as in the Navy or other fighting Services."

The School

Originally founded in Leeds in 1911, the School moved to Bridlington in 1929, and in 1936 took in its first boarders, having functioned exclusively as a Day School previously.

During WW2, it moved to Otley



in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where hundreds of young men and women qualified successfully. "The majority of the men entered the Merchant Navy as Radio Officers, but a number were enlisted into the Armed Forces... The majority of the young women joined the W.R.N.S."

After the war, the school returned to Bridlington, acquired additional land and extended its premises. After being completely re-decorated and equipped with "the most up-to-date radio apparatus" its prospectus claimed it to be "the best equipped School in the country".

"... it will interest intending students taking the Marine Course to know that apparatus... of the types now fitted on the largest passenger and cargo vessels of the British Mercantile Marine, has just been fitted in the School Radio Cabin by Messrs The Marconi International Marine Communication Company, Ltd, London..."

The apparatus listed, included the Marconi "Oceanspan" CW and MCW valve transmitter, claimed to revolutionise marine communication; the Marconi "Vigilant" Automatic Alarm Type M; the Marconi "Yeoman" All Wave Receiver" (CR300), intended to operate in conjunction with the "Oceanspan" transmitter; and the Marconi "Lodestone" Radio Direction Finder.

The Students

Every student wishing to undergo training for the Postmaster General's Certificates or the Air Ministry Licence was required to be British born of natural born British parents; and on enrolment was required to complete a Post Office

Birth and Parentage Form

References were required from two people who were British subjects and householders, but not related to the applicant. A birth certificate was required to be shown. The age limits for prospective students were 15 to 30 years, although students over 30 were not barred from obtaining employment with the Radio Companies.

Every Radio Officer was required to undergo a medical examination and to be physically fit. Students were therefore advised to obtain medical advice if there was any doubt about their fitness before joining the school.

Students were not required to have any special knowledge of Electrical, Chemical or Mathematical subjects before beginning their Course.

The Training

"A high standard of discipline must necessarily obtain on board ship, a similar standard is maintained in training. Students must therefore observe all the rules of the School. For instance, a study period each evening is observed under the supervision of prefects, where strict silence is the rule."

Students entering the School were required to provide themselves with the School uniform which was very similar to that worn by Radio Officers on board ship. When the student qualified, the tailor altered the uniform to conform with the uniform worn at sea, without further charge beyond that required for the necessary braid (rank stripes), buttons, and cap badge.

The Morse Telegraphy Practice Room, "specially designed by experts in

this class of work", was claimed to be "the most up-to-date in the country." In designing it, "Account was taken of the fact that the student... should be able to take over his duties on board ship without any 'apprenticeship'. He must therefore, not only be able to send and receive in plain language, code, and figures at the prescribed speeds, but be capable of handling radiotelegrams (to charge, route, insert preambles, etc) exactly as on board ship, and be able to speak clearly and intelligently on the microphone...

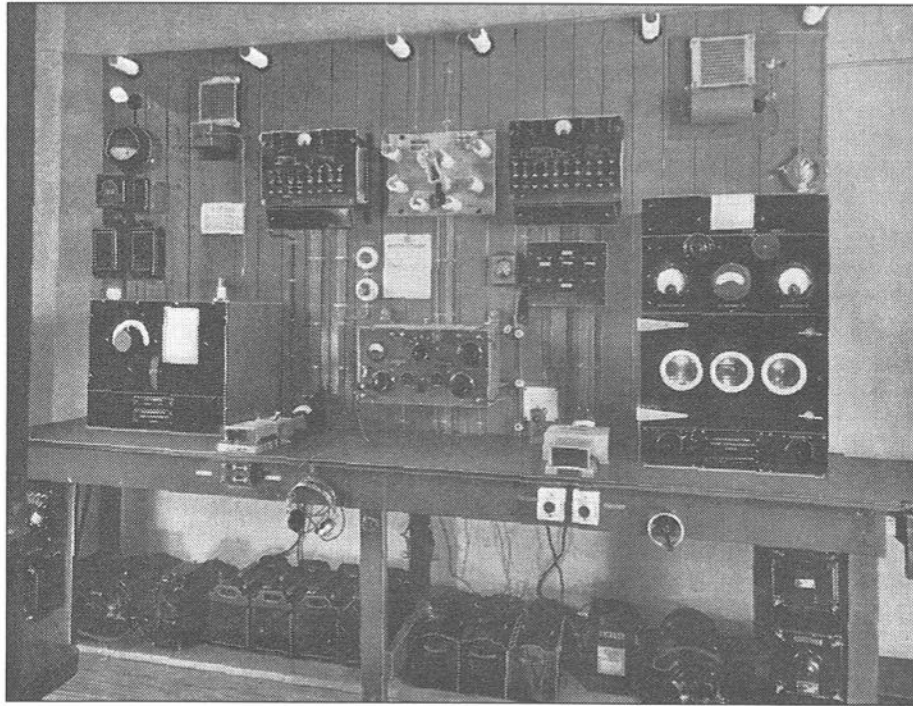
"For practice in the commercial telegraphing of messages, as between a ship and a shore station or between a ship

and other ship stations, students are paired off and detailed to separate 'School Stations' to enable the work to be carried out in exactly the same manner as is observed under actual conditions.

"The student thus becomes very familiar with the charging and routing of messages, the keeping of a Wireless Log, the observance of 'silence periods', and the correct regulations to be observed in working and the free use of the International 'Q' code."

Ready to Start

"'North Eastern' trained students, when appointed to ship or shore stations,



The Marconi Type 369 Q.G. Spark Transmitter; the Marconi Marine Receiver Type 352A; the Marconi CW/ICW Valve Transmitter Type 381.

are therefore competent to handle the work, and to keep watch without any initiation.

“Arrangements have also been made to enable students to receive the Daily News (Press) bulletin from the Post Office Station at Rugby. The taking down of this news bulletin is a part of the normal routine on board a passenger ship.

“‘North Eastern’ trained students are thus accustomed to receiving the actual Press Bulletins as part of a daily routine, so that no trouble in this connection is experienced when they proceed to take up an appointment at sea.

“The beginner is, of course, first taught the Morse code and then his speed in transmission and reception is increased by practice. This covers Press (plain language), code and figures.

“Students are taught the use of the ‘International List of Radiotelegraph Stations’, the ‘International List of Land and Fixed Stations’, and the Post Office Guide; also the principal wire and wireless routes of the world. They are given practice in ‘keeping watch’, i.e., listening in on an actual ship’s receiver, and keeping a log of all signals received, as required on board ship.

“Practical work includes connecting up apparatus; regulating and adjusting apparatus; tracing and clearing faults; repairing defective apparatus; and using D.F. (direction finding) apparatus to obtain bearings, etc.

“The text books required for the course are ‘Electricity and Magnetism’, by Sylvanus Thompson, price 5s.6d; ‘The Admiralty Handbook of Wireless Telegraphy’, two volumes, prices 4s. and 7s.6d; and H.M Postmaster General’s

‘Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators, price 9d.

School fees

Course for the P.M.G.’s First Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy or for the Air Ministry Licence in Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony..... £50.00 or £14.00 per Term of 12 weeks.

Course for Radio Engineering and Radio Servicing..... £48.00 or £14 per Term.

Board-residence..... Twenty one guineas (£22.1.0d) per Term.

Classes of Certificate

At the time of this prospectus, there were three classes of Certificate issued by H.M. Postmaster General, namely First Class, Second Class, and Special Certificate. In normal times, only holders of the First or Second Class P.M.G. Certificates could be employed on Merchant Navy ships of 1,600 tons gross, or over.

Students holding these Certificates were employed as Radio Officers with a commencing salary of £22.7.6d, rising after three years’ sea service to £36.15.0d per month, all found. Only holders of the First Class Certificate could rise to the position of officer-in-charge of the radio station on a large vessel, receiving an additional salary of £2 per month for this responsibility.

On a ship carrying 200 persons or more, and not engaged in the coasting trade, a Radio Officer-in-Charge received £1 a month extra if the ship was under 16,001 tons gross, and £2 per month extra if the ship was 16,001 tons gross and over.

During WW2, holders of the Special Certificate were employed on vessels of 1,600 tons gross or over at a commencing salary of £8 per month, with £10 War Bonus. After the war they could only serve on such vessels as fishing trawlers, ocean tugs, etc.

In the post-war years, during the National Service period, students in training reaching the age of 18 could be deferred from call-up into the armed forces, provided they entered the Merchant Navy as Radio Officers when they qualified for the P.M.G.'s First or Second Class Certificate.

Exam Requirements

The examination for the First Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy comprised a theoretical examination consisting of two papers:

- 1) Electricity and Magnetism - two hours
 - 2) Technical Wireless - three hours
- and a practical examination covering Connecting-up apparatus; Regulating and adjusting apparatus; Tracing and clearing faults; Repairing defective apparatus (the apparatus being in all cases Quenched-gap Spark installation, CW and ICW Valve installations, and receiving



Marconi "Oceanspan" CW/ICW Transmitter (medium and short wave); "Yeoman" All Wave Receiver; "Vigilant" Auto Alarm and "Lodestone" Direction Finder as fitted at the School.

apparatus); Using DF apparatus to obtain bearings; Sending and receiving Morse code at 25 wpm plain language, and 20 groups per minute in code (First Class Certificate) or 20 wpm plain language and 16 groups per minute code (Second Class Certificate); and a test on commercial working, exchanging traffic as between a ship and other ship stations and between a ship and a shore station.

Extract from the Conditions of Employment for Sea-going Radio Officers

The Radio Officer on a vessel holds rank equal to that of Second Navigating Officer. The Radio Department aboard ship shall be considered as a separate Department, and

the Radio Officer-in-Charge will be held responsible to the Master of the ship for the efficient working of the Radio Telegraph Station.

A Radio Officer is entitled to fourteen days leave on full pay after each year's continuous service. In addition it is often usual for Operators to have between 3-7 days ashore between arrival and departure on the next voyage.

An Officer may terminate his service by giving one week's notice in writing to his Employer.

It should be noted that 'Radio Officer' is the official designation for a Wireless Operator who is employed at sea.

Jobs Available

"When the student qualifies he can apply for appointment with one of the large Marine Radio Companies, of which the best known are The Marconi Marine Company Ltd (who are responsible for the fitting, maintenance, and supply of personnel for 75% of British Merchant Vessels); Messrs Siemens Brothers and Company Ltd; and the International Marine Radio Company Ltd (who supply the wireless staffs for the Cunard-White Star liners, including the R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth); also such Shipping Companies as the Cunard Steamship Company, the Anchor-Brocklebank Line, the Blue Funnel Line, the Union Castle Line, etc, who employ their own wireless staffs.

"He will, in due course, be appointed by the Company to a passenger liner. As he has had, during his training at this school, the opportunity of dealing extensively with the transmission and

receipt of messages, the reception of Radio press, etc, he will be appointed to a large vessel where three or more qualified operators are employed.

"He will start as a 'Junior' at a salary equivalent to £350 on shore, but after he has served six months with the same Company he may have the opportunity of being placed in charge of the apparatus on a vessel... After he has served three years at sea he becomes eligible to take charge of the Radio Station on a large vessel...

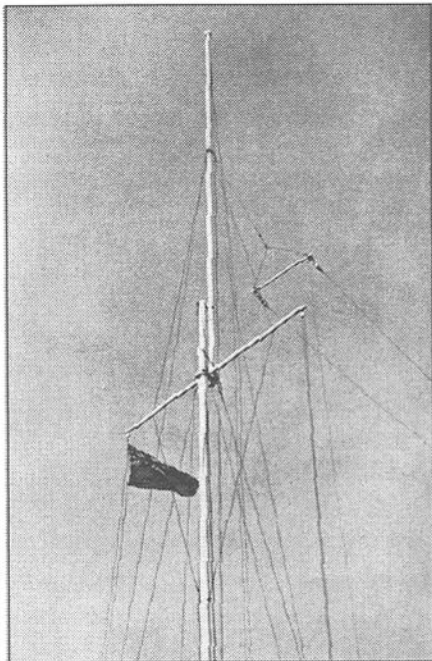
"The ambitious man will not rest content after he has secured further promotion... All the higher positions in the Radio Companies are held by men who themselves started life as Radio Officers."

Aviation

Another career open to young men passing through the school was that of Civil Aircraft Radio Officer, claimed by the prospectus to offer "a life of travel and adventure". Such operators were required to possess the Air Ministry Licence in Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony, and some civil aircraft companies also required their operators to hold the Postmaster General's Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy.

"The training for the Air Licence is on similar lines to that for H.M. Postmaster General's Certificate. The examination covers Morse receiving and sending at 20 words per minute in plain language and at 16 groups per minute in code.

"There are practical communication tests by Radiotelegraphy



School Mast and Aerials

and Radiotelephony, and a thorough knowledge of procedure and regulations is necessary. A written paper is set on Technical Wireless, as well as practical tests on aircraft radio installation.

“The career offers innumerable opportunities for advancement as openings occur from time to time for ground staff personnel. All the Companies employing Radio Officers are rapidly expanding, hence the demand for trained men is daily increasing.”

Other Jobs

“Students desirous of obtaining shore appointments may be placed with Imperial Airways, Wireless Relay Service Companies, or in the Wireless Trade, as openings arise.”

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A Different World

Those are the basic facts about taking up a wireless career some 50 years ago. How many readers of MM went through this process, and were their expectations of an attractive and varied life travelling round the world, as depicted by the literature of this School, and no doubt all other Schools, actually realised?

It was a different world, now rapidly becoming just a memory. MM exists, among other reasons, to help preserve those memories and will always welcome interesting recollections, stories, or information about professional Morse telegraphy in its heyday.

Did any readers actually train at the North Eastern School? And did these extracts from the School's prospectus stir any memories for you? If they did, we hope to hear from you! **MM**

In the current issue of

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the vintage wireless magazine

- HMV's Model 471
- Do you remember the selenium rectifier
- Loftin-White - first affordable quality amplifier
- Aircraft Radio, a brief history Part 1

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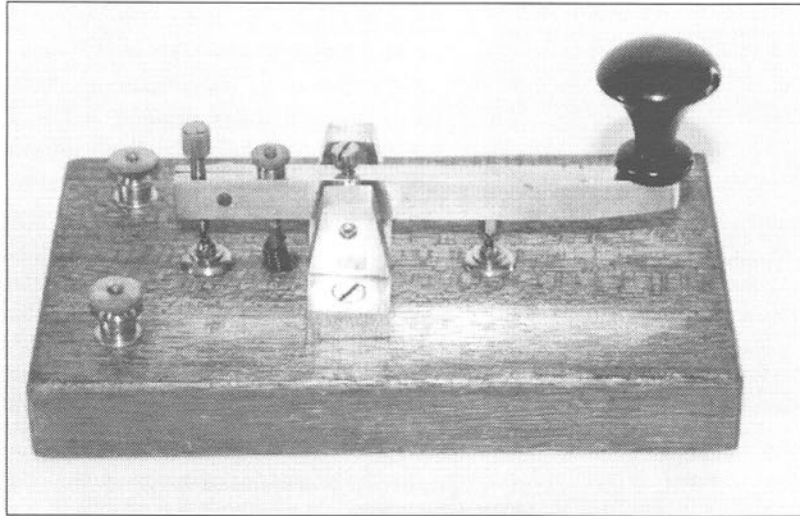
East Borough, Wimborne
Dorset BH21 1PF, England



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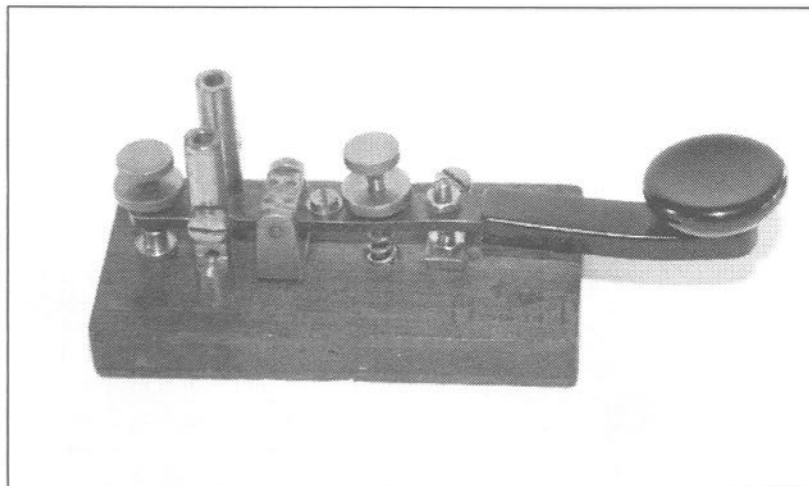
Please send all information to the Editor, Morsum Magnificat so that readers can share the information

Photo/Collection: Jean Le Galudec



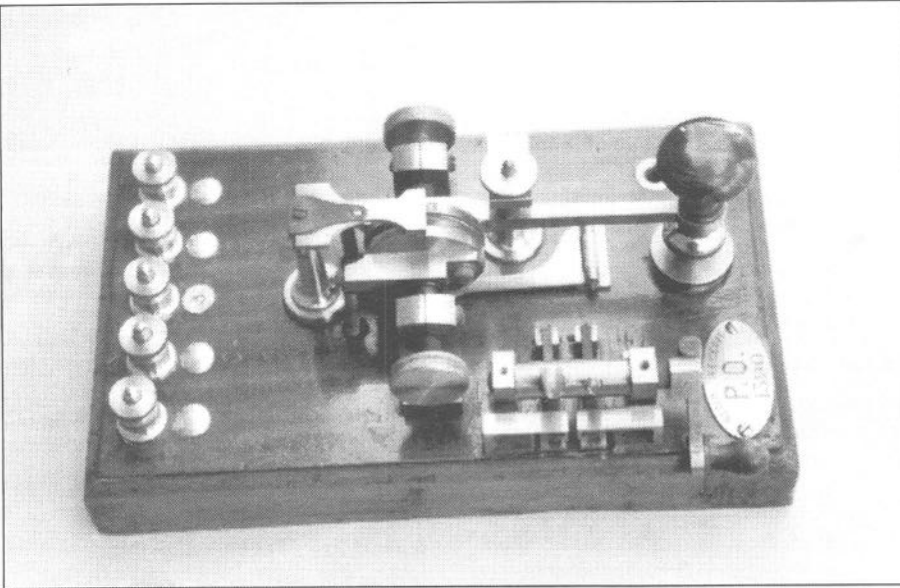
Japanese Post Office key

Photo/Collection: Jean Le Galudec



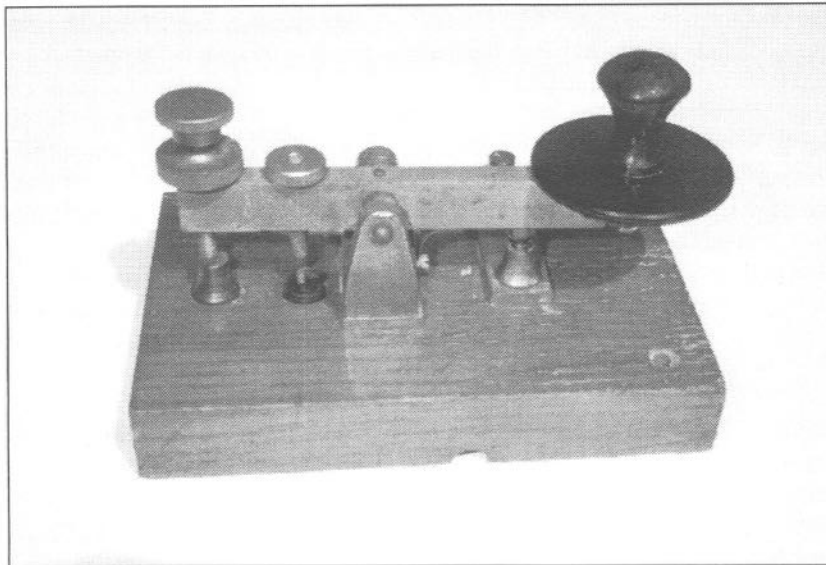
German key - Leipzig

Photo/Collection: Malcolm Brass, G4YMB



Malcolm Brass owns this early British Post Office key which is probably pre-GPO and could date from around 1870. It has with serial number 1390. He is particularly interested in information on the part numbering system as there are other pieces in his collection with these types of numbers.

Photo/Collection: Wyn Davies



French 'Dyna' key, probably mid-1920s

Your Letters

Readers' letters on any Morse subject are always welcome, but may be edited when space is limited. When more than one subject is covered, letters may be divided into single subjects in order to bring comments on various matters together for easy reference

DARC and the Code, No-Code Debate

I feel that I must comment on the news item about the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club in MM65, "DARC to Propose New Amateur Bandplan". What appears to have been in the *W5YI Report* is a mixture of two different things. The first part is a translation of some parts of what is known here in Germany as "The Timm Report".

The Timm Report, originally produced by Harry Timm, DL6HBT, then head of the DARC Future of the Amateur Radio Service Committee, was presented to the DARC general assembly in Dresden this year and is dated. While all of W5YI's translations appear to be accurate, he did not point out that it was DL6HBT's final report and that he quit his job at the same time. The reasons for his departure are also given in the report, i.e. mainly the lack of support from the DARC council and their lack of will to immediately implement his proposals. Mr. Timm went further and claimed that DARC top staff did not want to do anything like that from the beginning. Apparently he'd got the impression that

he was doing a lot of work not needed or even wanted.

Whilst the report was not made available to the public, some parts were "leaked" and DARC was questioned by members about it. Also, it appears that the leaked passages were forwarded to W5YI's NCI (No Code Initiative) group, who used it as fuel for their argument.

DARC was forced to release the report to members but did not comment on it, i.e. they neither agreed nor disagreed with it, at least in public.

The other issue in the *W5YI Report*, the proposed "HF Band Plan 2000", to the best of my knowledge originates from another group, the DARC HF Committee. Apparently, they would like to have a legally binding frequency use, but I rather doubt that many radio regulatory administrations would support this since they would have to enforce them. Also, some European administrations consider that this matter should be subject to self-regulation within the Amateur Radio Service.

On behalf of the Deutscher Telegrafie Club, DTC, I should say that we dislike the Timm Report in many respects. Most of our members are also

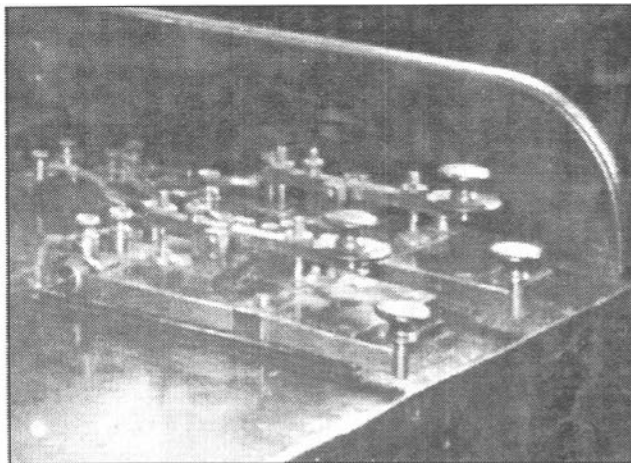
members of the DARC , but every one of them considers the phrase in the report, "... we will have to do everything to abolish Morse telegraphy as a prerequisite for HF, even against all loud pro-coder votes, and even against the rest of the world" a slap in the face. Apart from the Morse part of it, its tone is a violation of the *Ham Spirit*, general good manners and a shame to read.

At present I am not certain whether the Timm Report will be part of the DARC official submission to the IARU Region 1 Conference. Let's hope not!

*Martin Hengemuehle, DL5QE
Chairman, DTC*

A Little Bit of History

With reference to the article by Geoff Arnold "Keying the Titanic" MM50, pages 26-30, I was recently sent a photograph by Nolan Daly, a wartime colleague at Chicksands RAF 'Y' service intercept station. It shows the wireless



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cabin on one of the Great Western Railway's (GWR) passenger ferries plying between Fishguard and Rosslare in the early 1920s. It gives an excellent view of a pair of Marconi Maniplulating Keys mentioned in the article.

The photo was found amongst the effects of Nolan's father, the late Gerald Harding Daly who started his wireless operating career as an artillery spotter from captive balloons in the Royal Naval Air Service, and later as wireless operator/navigator in aircraft. In 1918 he joined the GWR as a Radio Officer on their passenger ships until 1926.

*Jack Barker, Surbiton
Surrey, England*

(For the full picture see back cover- Ed)

U.S. Navy Code

With reference to the article on the United States Navy code in MM64 (p.12), and the question of whether or not the code was used for wireless transmission. This

article is very good, but it raises as many questions as it answers!

I guess this will always be the case researching these subjects. I have found many conflicts in information from 'impeccable' 'authentic' 'official' publications from official services etc. I feel I have to accept them at face value until found otherwise.

In the 1912 edition of "American Telegraphy & Encyclopaedia of the Telegraph" (pp362-366), for example, it is stated (abbrev): "In flag and torch signalling as well as in heliographic and lantern signalling the American Morse Code is used by the US war department, when a dot and dash alphabet is to be availed of.

It then describes the Myer code and all its procedures etc. for example: "For fog signals or fog horns, one (1) toot, about one-half second will be 'one' ... of the Myer alphabet. Two toots in quick succession will be 'two' and a blast about two seconds long will be 'three'. The ear not the watch is to be relied upon for the intervals. For signalling with flash lantern, heliograph or search-light shutter, same as in fog signals; substitute 'short flash' for 'toot', and "long steady flash" for "blast". The elements of a letter should be slightly longer."

The 1909 edition of the International Code of Signals, American Edition (p.545), refers to the United States Army and Navy Signal Code thus: "Communications may be had by this code with the United States Army, Navy, Revenue Cutter and Life-Saving services."

The three codes were used simultaneously by electric telegraphists to the end, when the Myer code was discontinued on the 16th Nov. 1912. There was an obvious problem of operator training and expense to learn three codes and there had been compatibility problems with some marine emergencies on the American seaboard. The US Navy and Coastguard used Myer which was not understood by foreign operators and

vice versa.

According to the history of the US Signal Corps, "Getting the Message Through", operators complained of having to use three codes. American for telegraph and land use, Myer for Army/ Navy and Coastguard, and International for maritime and foreign cable services.

Following the "Titanic" disaster international conferences were held to improve things. This resulted in the Q code being established and the US dropped the Myer code.

*John Alcorn, VK2JWA
N.S.W., Australia*

The Art of 'Zogging'

"The Art of Zogging" (MM65) was very interesting. I was disappointed when I saw at the end of the above article a reference to an article in issue #26, because my first subscription issue of MM was issue #34. However, I found that Tony Smith had sent me a copy of issue #26 as a sample the first time had I sent him a copy of "The Mill". What luck!

I understand the article in MM26 as saying that both dot and dash movements are downward sweeping movements from the elbow, the dot being a short movement and the dash being a longer movement. I think that the dot movement from the elbow described in MM26 would be more visible than the wrist movement described in MM65.

*Jim Farrow, W4FOK
Florida*

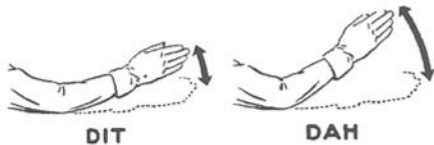
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'Zogging'

With reference to MM65, September, '99, Pg. 44, a very similar system was used by the U.S Navy, included in a book I compiled entitled "Codes, Codes and More Codes", page 22:

“

**HEAD/HAND TAPPING
RADIO CODE HAND SIGNALING**
Radio code hand signaling is used for communication between planes to avoid breaking radio silence. Its fundamental points are: (1) a closed hand represents a dot and (2) an open hand repre-



sents a dash. In some squadrons it has been done by tapping the head with the closed and/or open hand to make the letters desired. In others, it has been done by tapping various parts of the plane. Thus it is often called "Head Tapping" or "Hand Tapping".

The newest method of hand signaling is accomplished by placing your hand at any fixed point. It may be your

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head, your shoulder, or any other spot convenient for use. From this point, jab your hand into the air. A short jab indicates a dit and a long jab, a dah. Make these hand thrusts distinct so that there can be no doubt as to the number of dits and dashes you are transmitting.

Regardless of the method you use, make all hand movements distinct. Make slightly longer pauses at the end of words to distinguish them clearly from letters. Make transmissions slowly and legibly.

WARNING! If you thrust your arm straight out of the cockpit of a high-speed plane, you may wrench your arm or shoulder.

Procedure for this hand signaling is prearranged. ”

Source: "COMMUNICATIONS HANDBOOK",
OPNAV 33-NY-17
CONAVAER 00 - 80V - PGS. 7,8.
ISSUED BY AVIATION TRAINING DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL
OPERATIONS - U.S. NAVY, 1944

*John Elwood, WW7P
Phoenix, Arizona*

HMS Collingwood Museum of Radar & Communication

Readers of MM might like to know that there is a web page for the Royal Navy Museum at <http://chide.museum.org.uk/hms.collingwood/hms.collingwood.index.html>

*Stan Barr, GØCLV
Merseyside, UK*

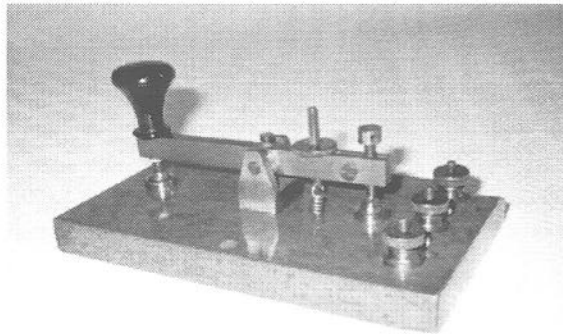
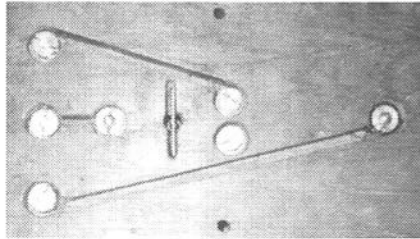
Info Please! MM65 p. 36

I appear to have found an identical key to that shown by Jean Le Galudec. There are no markings and apart from slight damage to one corner of the base, the key, in new condition, has never been wired up. Unusual features are the slotted head nuts fastening the terminals/contacts and deep milled-out channels (3mm x 5mm) in the base.

The key appears to be the same as that marked "Fig. 51KB" in the picture from Leslie Dixon's Catalogue of WWI surplus shown on the inside back cover of MM46.

It is interesting to note that I have examples of all the keys shown on that page except for the double arm Fig. 51KE.

*Jack Barker, Surbiton
Surrey, England.*



MM Key Competition

I would like to express my delight at winning the MM Competition. I can assure you and all the readers of MM that the Watson W-GMG gold-plated key is appreciated and most highly prized. I will put it to good use as I am very active on CW. I would also like to express my appreciation to Waters and Stanton for their donation.

It also gave me great pleasure to have the opportunity to research the answers in MM and page through back issues. I have every issue from Nr.1 to date, all original books and am very proud of them,

Another reason that this key is so exclusive, is that a few years ago I bought a brand new Vibroplex Original Presentation Model, 1990, which has chrome works on a gold plated base, direct from the factory. This was a celebration of 50 years of CW operation, both commercial and amateur. After all those years of hunkering after a brand new Bug, I thought it time to enjoy one. I use it daily with great satisfaction. So the receipt of a gold plated straight key, won in a competition, adds to my enjoyment of the use of Morse.

I have a small collection of keys and bugs, amongst them an Eddystone (MM Nr.12 and 13), a McElroy and a Speed-X 500 which I used for many, many years.

So please carry on the excellent work done in

MM66 – November 1999

producing MM. Although CW is fading from the commercial scene there is much enjoyment in it's use on the amateur bands.

*Barrie E. Brokensha, ZS6AJY
Benoni, South Africa*

MM65 Searchword - by Tony Smith

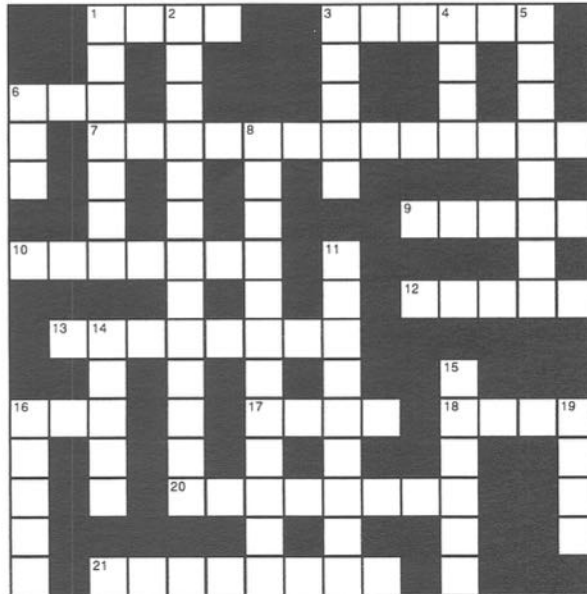
(Find the answers to this puzzle in MM65)

Across

- 1 Japan's national radio society (4)
- 3 Country which recently reduced its Morse test speed (6)
- 6 Time specification (3)
- 7 Telegraph hub in Malvern (13)
- 9 Hams here have royal president (5)
- 10 Keep your MMs safe in these (7)
- 12 Exists to promote amateur CW activity (5)
- 13 Presenter of radio programme on end of Maritime Morse (8)
- 16 Club with "Dial-Up Morse" activities (3)
- 17 Makers of early transistor radios (4)
- 18 Worldwide association of radio societies (4)
- 20 Original Morse code (8)
- 21 Used for husky contacts (8)

Down

- 1 Royal Navy's wireless pioneer (7)
- 2 Hungarian magazine (13)
- 3 Earliest form of wireless telegraphy (5)
- 4 They are proposing new amateur band plan (4)



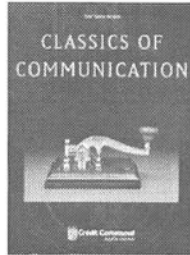
- 5 High praise for Dick Dillman (8)
- 6 Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year (3)
- 8 Book by Dave Ingram (12)
- 11 Home of AGCW(9)
- 14 Switzerland's regulatory body (5)
- 15 Barrie Brokensha was one in MM65 (6)
- 16 Improvised key - Bert van Kleef's invention of the century, or so he thought! (5)
- 19 Is to conduct a "consultative survey" of its members re the Morse test (4)

Solution on page 48

MM Bookshelf

Specialist Books on Telegraphy by Mail Order

ALL WORLD ORDERS ARE SHIPPED BY AIR MAIL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED



Classics of Communication (English Edition) by Fons Vanden Berghen

A book of exceptional quality produced originally to accompany a Brussels Exhibition sponsored by a Brussels bank. Illustrated with 240 high quality photographs, 140 in colour, including many rare telegraph instruments. The text includes the history and technology of electricity through to wireless and early television, but a large section of the book is devoted to telegraphy. Without sponsorship, a book of this size and quality could not have been economically possible for such a limited readership - 107 pages, 24.5cms x 29.5cms (9.7in x 11.6in). **£16.95 UK - £18.25 EU - £21.00 World (US \$36)***



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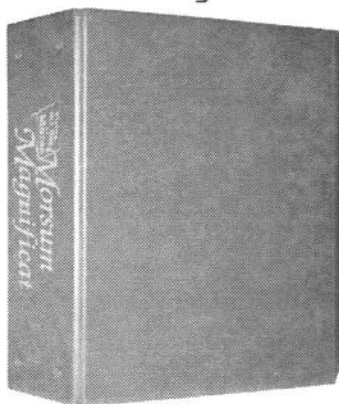
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Old Time Radio

by Macalee Hime, AB5TY

On August 5, 1921, the first baseball game with a play-by-play description was aired on Pittsburgh's Radio KDKA. Pittsburgh beats Philadelphia 8-5.

Our friend Buck Willeford W5LKL, who was with Gulf Oil, used to work nights for Western Union in Midland, Texas and do re-creations of the play. Buck would take his sounder to the radio station, copy the commentary coming in from Chicago, or wherever, in American Morse and type the on the mill. He was not allowed to break, even if he missed the name of a player like Casimir Grzebowski.

A messenger from the station would pick up the copy every ten minutes or so and take it to the announcer, who would give the commentary, along with a background recording of crowd sounds, to recreate the game, or "fake" it.

Buck did tell the story about a fellow who liked to bet with him on

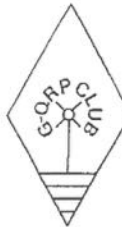


the games. This fellow got his information when the game was being broadcast (or re-created), thinking it was live coverage, not knowing that Buck already knew the play. Someone finally ratted on Buck and that ended his winnings. **MM**

G-QRP Club

The G-QRP Club promotes and encourages low-power operating on the amateur bands with activity periods, awards and trophies. Facilities include a quarterly magazine, Morse training tapes, kits, traders' discounts and a QSL bureau. Novices and SWLs welcome.

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FOR SALE OR TRADE: Turn of century brass 'Triumph' legless key used on landline operations in North America. Several available of different manufacturers. Clean and complete with all original parts. \$50. Other keys, bugs, sounders and landline equipment available. SASE for list. Dave Pennes WA3LKN; 4607-C Santa Cruz Drive. Indianapolis, IN 46268-5354, USA. (317) 471-9605; dpennes@hotmail.com

BOOK: "Radiotelegraph and Radiotelephone Codes, Prowords and Abbreviations." 2nd Edition. AUD\$16 posted within Australia. 90 Pages. Q,X,Z Codes, 97 Phonetic, 20 Morse Codes. Phillips, Myer, 10,11,12,13 Codes. Much other info. Probably world's best listings. Internet: <http://www.nor.com.au/community/sarc/phonetic.htm>. Also via MM. VK2JWA, John W.Alcorn. QTHR. +61 02-66215217. jalcorn@nor.com.au VISA, MASTERCARD, BANKCARD (Aus, NZ) accepted.

THE MM Q & Z CODEBOOK, a comprehensive 82-page list of the Q-codes and Z-codes, including a one-page list of the original Q-codes of 1912. Available from Dick Kraayveld PA3ALM, Merellaan 209, 3145 EH Maassluis, Holland. Price £5 UK, or US\$10.00 outside UK, including postage in both cases. Payment accepted in cash only.

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WANTED TO BUY: Books on the history of maritime wireless telegraphy (any period up to the present day and maritime W/T keys. David Smith, P.O. Box 255, Hastings, New Zealand. E-mail: david@eccs.co.nz

WANTED - MARCONI KEY 365, 365A or 971. Also Vibroplex bugs with base colours green, brown, red, yellow and blue. Please contact Helmut Klein, OE1TKW, Nauseagasse 24/26, A-1160 Wien, Austria. Phone +43 664 173 1404 or +43 1 1707 46391. E-mail helmut.klein@siemens.at

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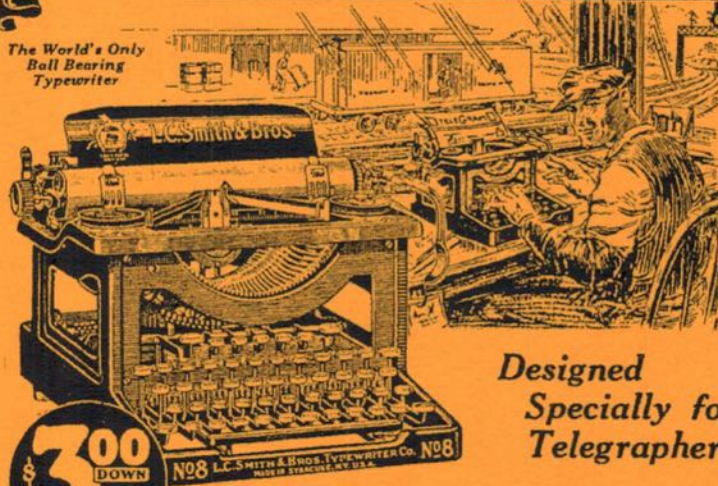
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(Page numbers in MM65 shown in brackets)
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Down: 1 Jackson (43), 2 Radiotechnika (3), 3 Spark (6/8/31/32), 4 DARC (2), 5 Nice fish (12), 6 URE (4), 8 Keys, Keys, (46), 11 Argentine (4), 14 OFCOM (5), 15 Winner (27), 16 Mouse (42), 19 USA (5).

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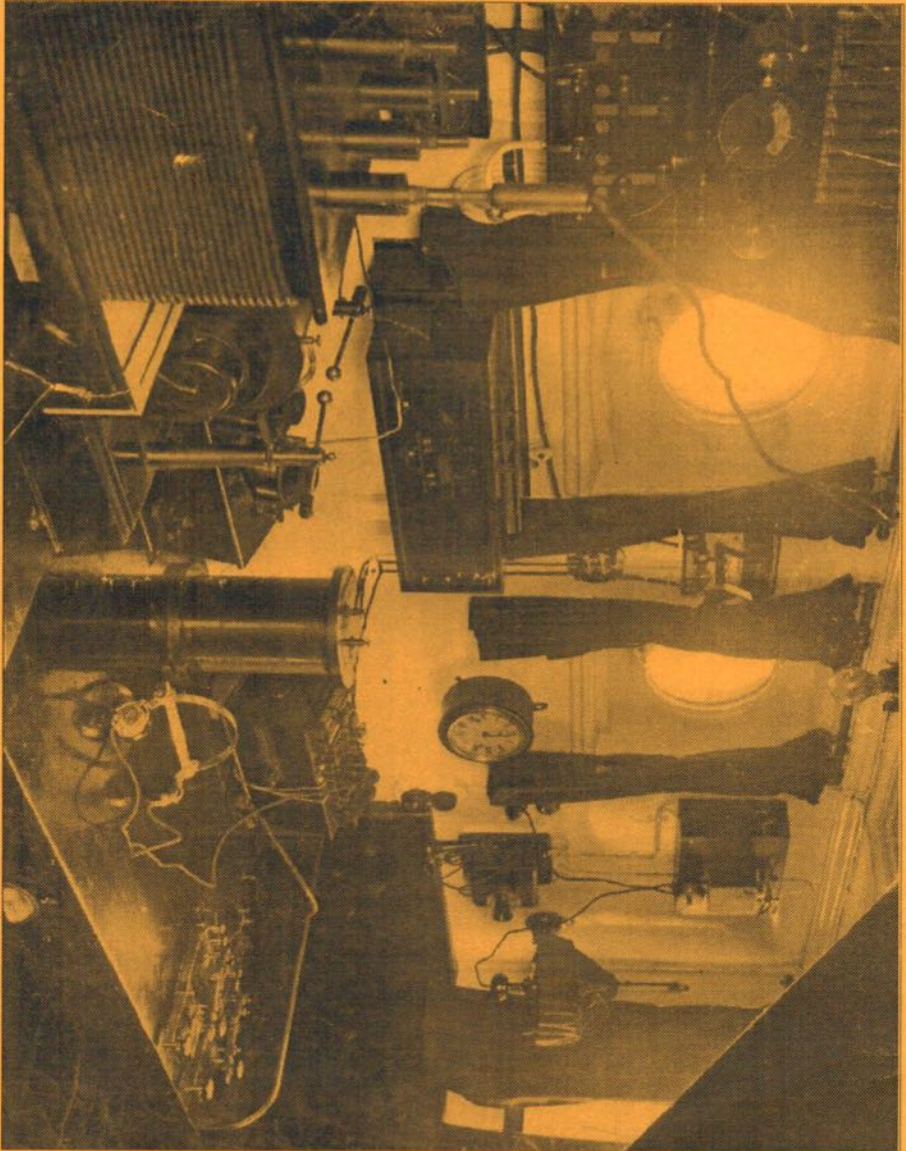
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The Radio Room of the Fishguard to Rosslare Ferry which plied the Irish Sea in the early 1920s. Note the pair of Marconi Manipulator keys with side levers. For a detail of these keys see 'Our Letters' on p.39

Photo supplied by Jack Barker