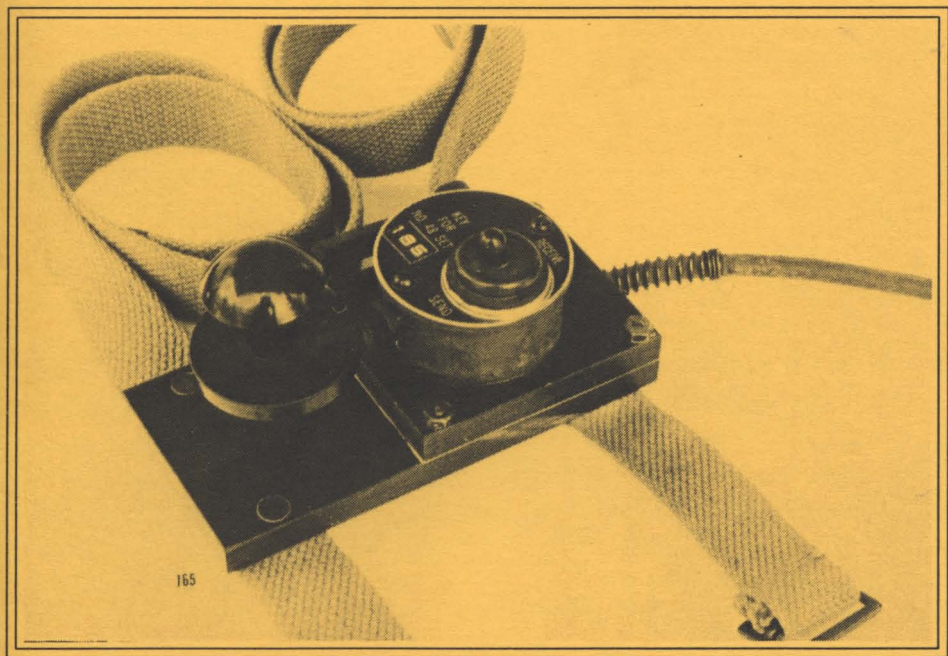


Number 18 – Christmas 1990

Morsum Magnificat



Magazine for Morse Telegraphy

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Morsum Magnificat

magazine for morse telegraphy

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT was first published in Holland, in 1983, by the late Rinus Hellemons PA0BFN. Now published in Britain, 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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ON OUR FRONT COVER

A Canadian key for use with the Wireless Set No. 48.

Further information on this key would be welcomed.

Collection: John Elwood W7GAQ. Photo: Ray Nelligan

Comment

MY APOLOGIES TO ALL *MM* subscribers for the late publication of this issue. As many readers will already know, I suffered a heart attack back in September last year, and this put me out of action for some weeks. Although I've made good progress on the road to recovery since then, the doctors insist that I take it easy for a while, so I've been especially glad of all the help that Tony G4FAI gives me in preparing *MM*. My sincere thanks also to everyone who's been in touch to wish me well in the past few months. Your kindness has been quite overwhelming.

Disappointingly, not many readers came up with any comments concerning the amount of news which appeared in *MM17*, though those that did were in favour of it, remarking that little Morse-related news appeared elsewhere. In this issue of *MM*, you will find an even larger collection of news items, partly as a result of the delay in publication, which has lengthened the news-gathering period by around 50 per cent!

You will also find quite a lengthy listing of events planned to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse on 27 April 1791.

MM19 will be a very special celebration issue, full of articles and features relating to the exploits and the legacy of that great man, and should find a place on the bookshelves of all Morse enthusiasts.

Geoff G3GSR

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News

Current W1AW Code Schedule (valid until 1 April 1991)

W1AW is the headquarters station of the American Radio Relay League, located at Newington, Connecticut. Its callsign is that of the League's founder and first president, Hiram Percy Maxim, and it is often known as the Maxim Memorial Station.

It puts out Code Practice sessions and CW Bulletins daily, and CW Qualifying Runs twice a month, as shown in the following schedules. Simultaneous transmissions are made on frequencies 1.818, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 21.0775, 28.0775, and 147.555MHz. Times are UTC. The 160m and 2m transmissions are temporarily off the air.

Slow Code Practice: 5, 7, 10, 13, & 15wpm

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
0300	0300	0000	0300	0000	0300	0000
2100	1400	2100	1400	2100	1400	2100

Fast Code Practice: 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, & 10wpm

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
0000	0000	0300	0000	0300	0000	0300
—	2100	1400	2100	1400	2100	—

Code practice texts are from *QST*, the journal of ARRL. Details are given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of each speed change. For example, 'Text is from September 1990 *QST*, pages 16 and 79', indicates that the main text is from the article on page 16 and the mixed number/letter groups at the end of each speed are from the contest scores on page 79.

CW Bulletins, 18wpm

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
0100	0100	0100	0100	0100	0100	0100
0400	0400	0400	0400	0400	0400	0400
—	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	—
2200	2200	2200	2200	2200	2200	2200

On Fridays, a DX bulletin replaces the regular bulletin transmissions. In a

communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special CW bulletins on the half hour. The station is closed December 24/25, January 1, and February 18.

SFBM Code Proficiency Award

To commemorate the Morse Anniversary, ARRL is instituting a special Samuel F. B. Morse Bicentennial Code Proficiency Award. The first transmission, via W1AW, will be at 2300Z on Saturday, 27 April 1991. Speeds will be 10 to 60wpm in 5wpm increments. Further transmissions will be at monthly intervals throughout 1991 alternating with the normal CW qualifying runs, as follows):

CW Qualifying Runs

Jan 10*, 0300;	Jan 24, 2400;
Feb 8**, 0300;	Feb 22, 2100;
Mar 9, 0300;	Mar 19, 1400;
Apr 7, 0200;	Apr 27, 2300 (first SFBM);
May 13, 0200;	May 24, 2000 (SFBM);
Jun 11**, 0200;	Jun 26, 1300 (SFBM);
Jul 10*, 0200;	Jul 27, 2300 (SFBM);
Aug 8, 0200;	Aug 27, 2000 (SFBM);
Sep 13, 0200;	Sep 25, 1300 (SFBM);
Oct 12**, 0200;	Oct 27, 2400 (SFBM);
Nov 10, 0300;	Nov 26, 2100 (SFBM);
Dec 9, 0300;	Dec 26, 1400 (SFBM).

* 35 to 10 wpm **10 to 40 wpm



Acknowledgements to Eddy Pollock W6LC, Manager and Chief Operator of W1AW, for assistance given in presenting this information.

Q & Z Codebook Reprinted

A reprint of the 82-page *Morsum Magnificat Q & Z Codebook*, a comprehensive list of the Q-codes and Z-codes, including the one-page list of original Q-codes, dated 1912, is now available.

The book was prepared by the late Rinus Hellemons PA0BFN (founder of *MM*), and is illustrated in the inimitable style (familiar to readers of early issues of *MM*) of Dick Kraayveld PA3ALM. To make the book useful for as many telegraphers as possible world-wide, it is printed in English.

Copies of the reprinted Q & Z codebook are obtainable direct from Dick Kraayveld PA3ALM, Merellaan 8, 3145 XE Maassluis, Netherlands (Tel: 01899-18766), price £5, inc. postage. Payment by banknote (sterling)

is acceptable. Please tell your friends about this publication. It is available to non-subscribers, who will receive details of *MM* with their copy. It also makes a very nice gift for all occasions for the CW addict who has everything!

U-QRQ-C to Join EUCW

The Soviet High Speed Club, U-QRQ-C, has applied to join the European CW Association. This is the first application for membership the Association has received from Eastern Europe.

Formed on 3 December 1988, under the auspices of the Soviet Radio Sport Federation, RSF, the club's motto is Ethics – Quality – Speed – Activity. It welcomes all amateurs, world-wide, who are capable of 40wpm using at most an electronic keyer, and who demonstrate a good operating technique and high quality of transmitted signal.

Joining fee is 10 Roubles or ten IRCs; annual fee for foreign members is discretionary. Invitation to membership will result from nominations to the Club Secretary from five existing members. Solicitation for nomination is not appropriate. Interested amateurs are invited to QSO members on Saturdays at 0700 (0800 in winter) GMT, on 14.070MHz; or on Wednesdays at 1900 (2000 winter) GMT, on 3.565MHz. QRX for the Club Bulletin from 4L1QRQ on the hour, QSL via UW3AA. The Club Secretary is V. Mitkevich U3DR, PO Box 1833, Domodedovo 142040, USSR.

German Championships

The 'Deutsche Telegrafie Meisterschaft' (DTM), the German Telegraphy Championships, will take place at Baunatal next Easter. The High Speed Club (HSC) annual meeting will take place at the same time, celebrating the club's 40th anniversary.

Ark of Peace/MM

The Omani royal yacht, *Fulk Al Salamah* (Ark of Peace), is carrying a UNESCO cultural and scientific expedition from Venice to Japan, from October 23 to March 10, retracing the ancient maritime silk route.

This ambitious project, supported by many famous museums and scientific institutions, also involves two other expeditions, following the old steppe and desert routes to China, plus an underwater survey by the Cousteau Foundation parallel with the sea-borne expedition.

The Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society will be operating A43SR/MM on the bands 3.5–28MHz from the Ark of Peace using various modes. Salim Al-Kitani, A41JV, has told Gordon Crowhurst G4ZPY that he will be operat-

ing CW, using a G4ZPY VHS twin paddle key, providing an opportunity for amateur Morse enthusiasts around the world to work this unique maritime mobile station. QSLs to ROARS, Box 981, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

South Africa Gets Novice Licence

A new amateur radio novice licence has been introduced in South Africa aimed at introducing the hobby to young people 'at an age when they are eager to experiment and learn.'

The new licence is available to applicants aged 12 years or older who can speak Afrikaans or English fluently. They must furnish acceptable proof that they can transmit and receive Morse code of at least five words per minute; and pass a Novice Examination covering radio regulations, technical matters, and operating procedures.

SARL, the South African Radio League, has been asked by the Postmaster General to arrange for the Morse testing of Novices and testing centres are being set up in many parts of the country.

The bands (limited sections) open to the new Novices are 160, 80, 30, 15, 10m and 70cm, with modes which include telephony on 160m, 10m and 70cm, and CW, RTTY and data on all bands. Power limits are 5W DC input for CW and 20W PEP for SSB.

Information contributed by Barrie Brokensha ZS6AJY

Fine EUCW Fists

During EUCW's 1990 Straight Key Day, on June 23, participants voted for the best hand style or 'fist' worked, and all those receiving at least two votes qualified for a 'Straight Key Award'.

SM0FSE topped the poll with 9 votes, closely followed by SM0NTE with 8. A total of 28 awards were made of which G-stations received a very creditable 25 per cent. Awards were made as follows, SM (Sweden) 18, G (UK) 7, OZ (Denmark) 2, and F (France) 1. A further 13 SM-stations and 1 G-station received 1 vote each, but did not qualify for an Award.

The G-stations qualifying were G3TLF (3 votes), G0GZN (2), GM3GG (2), G0EQE (2), G4XPE (2), G0DRT (2), and G0JXZ(2).

This event was previously the SCAG (Scandinavian CW Activity Group) Midsummer Straight Key Day and it became an EUCW event only last year. As was reported in MM17 (p.12) by Dominique Bourcart FD10EB, a good number of G-stations took part and these results confirm not only the enthusiasm of UK amateurs for this type of event but their skill on the 'hand-pump' as well!

TS

No Problems in VE Yet

It appears that the recent Canadian deregulation of the ham bands is not posing any problems to the US. The chaos (anticipated by some) has not broken out.

While amateurs may now use any mode on any band (including voice on historically CW spectrum) Canadian amateurs are universally observing the traditional mode sub-bands as requested by their amateur organizations.

From W5YI REPORT, 1 November 1990

USA/Australia Dial-up Link

In the latest issue of *Dots and Dashes*, journal of the Morse Telegraph Club, Bill Dunbar reports that following a successful trial run on September 20, he linked up from Normal, Illinois, with the annual meeting of the Sydney Morsecodians on October 20 via an intercontinental 'landline' telegraph circuit, with both stations using key and sounder.

John Houlder was on the key in Sydney with the 160 Morsecodians present listening avidly to the proceedings. John reported 'you could have heard a pin drop' as the exchanges took place. It is hoped to arrange further exchanges in 1991 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Prof. Morse's birth.

Bill Dunbar comments, 'Undoubtedly there have been telegraphic circuits between our two countries via cable, but we believe this is the first time it's been done privately using ordinary telephone channels. Ordinary, that is, if fiber optics, microwaves and satellites are "ordinary". MTC and the Morsecodians have given "re-inventing the wheel" a whole new meaning!'

VK YL CW Trophy

The highest scoring Australian lady CW novice operator (not necessarily a member) in the annual ALARA contest is awarded the 'Mrs Florence McKenzie CW Trophy'. Mrs McKenzie, 1892-1982, was the first woman in Australia to take out a transmitting licence, in 1921. Her original call was 2GA, later becoming VK2FV. 'Mrs Mac' taught Morse code to thousands of people, particularly service personnel during WWII, and in 1984 the Townsville Amateur Radio Club donated this trophy in her memory.

Condensed from Amateur Radio, journal of the WIA, August 1990

Record Attempt

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club attempted a Morse code sending world record to celebrate ITU Day on May 17. Around 30 operators took part in one-hour consecutive shifts sending the history of the ITU on 7.050MHz.

Starting at 0000UTC on the 17th, the plug was finally pulled at 0330UTC on May 20, after 75 hours of Morse, with no more than a 5-second break due to a loose lead on the key. Reports of signal strength – with messages of encouragement – were received from all over Australia. It is understood that the existing record stands at less than 24 hours. The rig used during the entire marathon effort was the club's Kenwood 520S which performed flawlessly throughout.

Condensed from Gilbert Griffith, VK3CQ's, 'Pounding Brass' column, Amateur Radio, journal of the WIA, August 1990

CW as a Licence Requirement

When the removal of a CW qualification was mooted a couple of years ago, the Wireless Institute of Australia received some very strongly worded comments upholding both viewpoints.

With the forthcoming World Administrative Radio Conference in 1992, amateurs may expect to see more proposals to reduce the CW qualifications, or to make other modifications to amateur licence requirements. However, present indications are that the lifting of the Morse code requirement will not be considered until the next WARC scheduled for 1998.

The WIA has been considering our current licensing regulations for some time, and is closely monitoring all WARC proposals. It is important to ensure that the uses and benefits of an existing mode are not lost to a communication form that has a much more restricted and/or temporary potential use.

From 'WIA News', Amateur Radio, journal of the WIA, October 1990

Israeli Delegates Challenged

As reported in MM15 & 16 the Israeli delegates to the IARU Region 1 Conference, last April, proposed that the amateur Morse test be replaced by a test in computer skills. In *HaGal*, the newsletter of the Israel Amateur Radio Club, September 1990, Alex Vilensky 4X1MH challenges the actions and conclusions of his national society's delegation.

He comments, 'No doubt the exams for the various licence classes should be updated periodically to fit the needs of the time... which means not only adding topics but reducing those less important, and deleting those no longer relevant...'

On this basis, he points out, there is no reason to acquire a knowledge of electronics at all because most of today's amateurs have difficulty in following the circuitry of the commercial equipment they operate.

The delegation's 'practical justification' of their proposal was that

Maritime Morse was to be discontinued, but in that case, he asks, 'what is the practical justification for amateur radio itself? What is the commercial, professional, or other importance of our hobby?'

There may be difficulty in answering this question, he says, but 'nevertheless we have the right to practise our hobby, just like amateur glider enthusiasts have in this age of jet planes and rockets.'

He believes that the vast majority of Israeli amateurs do not accept that the proposed abolition of Morse at sea is a justification for abolishing the amateur Morse test. 'It is natural', he concludes, 'that Morse communication has its supporters and its opponents, and of course each opinion must be respected. But the official position of the Israel Amateur Radio Club must be that of the majority.'

'We cannot remain silent without asking ourselves how it was that our delegation to the IARU Conference concluded that the majority of Israel's licensed amateurs support the idea of cancelling the Morse examinations; and how it was the delegation took it upon themselves to carry the banner of the struggle against Morse communications?'

RAFARS Slow Morse

Slow Morse transmissions from G3GNS on behalf of the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society can be received at 1200–1230 hours Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday; and 1830–1900 hours Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, all at local time on 3.550, 1.908, and 145.250MHz. Speeds are 5wpm, then 7wpm, 9–10wpm, and finally 12wpm. Each individual letter is sent at a speed of 12wpm while the overall speed is achieved by adjusting the spacing.

These training sessions have been transmitted by 'Pop' Seymour G3GNS,

Phil Evans GW8WJ/GW6AQ

I regret to report that Phil Evans became a silent key on 29 August 1990. He was a lifelong supporter of CW and QRP operating. In 1946, after war service in REME, he founded the TOPS CW Club, which was for many years a large, active, and influential organisation for CW operators.

Under his own call of GW8WJ Phil had never used more than 8W CW input, and he worked some notable DX. GW6AQ was reserved for TOPS operating. In his passing, we lose a man of strong views who gave much to the CW operating movement.

Gus Taylor G8PG

(now in his '80s) over many years. He is always delighted to hear from those who use, or have made use of, his transmissions.

Information from QRV, journal of RAFARS, Autumn 1990

TOPS Activities

Although TOPS CW Club has not functioned for some years as a formal organisation, several TOPS activities are still in existence. There is a TOPS net on Sundays and Wednesdays at 1400 UK time, on 7.0117MHz, with 3.508MHz as an alternative if propagation is unsuitable for the UK, and all are welcome to call in whether TOPS members or not.

The TOPS Activity Contest (TAC) is held over the first weekend of December every year from 1800UTC on the Saturday to 1800UTC on the Sunday, on 3.500–3.560MHz, with classes for single ops, multi-ops, and single op QRP with up to 5W output.

The contest manager is Helmut Klein OE1TKW, Nausegasse 24/26, A-1160 Wien, Austria. All enquiries about the present status of TOPS should be sent to Chris Hammett G3AWR, 48 Hadrian Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9QH, England (send SAE or IRCs).

More Power for G-CW

By an anomaly, amateur SSB power in Britain is measured in peak envelope power output while CW is measured by carrier power. This results in typical maximum permitted power of 26dBW (400W) for SSB and 20dBW (100W) for CW. Following representations by the Radio Society of Great Britain to the Radiocommunications Agency of the DTI (Britain's licensing authority), it is anticipated that the higher power will be available to CW operators shortly.

Novice Exam Contract to C&G

The contract to carry out the new UK Novice Licence examination has been awarded to the City & Guilds of London Institute which already administers the Radio Amateurs' Examination.

The fee to take the examination will be £8.95, and the first exam will probably be held in the late Spring of 1991.

Czech/UK QRP Tests

The annual OK/G QRP weekend will be held 9–10 February, organised jointly by the OK-QRP Club and the G-QRP Club. The idea is for Czech and UK operators to work as many stations as possible in each other's country to establish the best routes using QRP power levels (5W output or less).

Recommended frequencies and times:

3.560MHz	0400-0700 & 2000-2400GMT
7.030MHz	0500-0700 & 1700-1900GMT
10.106MHz	0600-1000 & 1400-1800GMT
14.060MHz	0800-1700GMT
21.060MHz	1100-1300GMT.

New Chief Morse Examiner

Roy Clayton G4SSH, previously Senior Morse Examiner, North Yorkshire, has been appointed as the Radio Society of Great Britain's Chief Morse Examiner in succession to Neville Ianson. The new Deputy Chief Examiner is Geoff Pritchard G4ZGP.

A detailed article, by Ron Wilson G4NZU, explaining the amateur Morse testing system in the United Kingdom was published in MM8 (p.22).

UK Morse Test Fees Increased

From 1 December 1990, the fee for RSGB Morse tests will rise to £13.00. The Society will be administering the new Novice 5wpm Morse test beginning in 1991.

Morse 78s

Norman Field G4LQF is seeking to identify and trace early Morse training records. The earliest he has found so far is a Gamages record dated about 1914.

Would any readers possessing, or having knowledge of, any 78rpm Morse records write or phone Norman with the basic details? Information is not required, however, on the famous G3HSC records (LPs playable at 78rpm for higher speeds) which is already available.

Please contact Norman at 14 Regent Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9JU, England. Tel: 021-426 3663.

QTC - I Have a Message For You

There has been some confusion over the UK ordering procedure for the above book which was reviewed in MM17, page 47.

While payment can be made to Barclays Bank, Great Dunmow, as explained, it is still necessary to order the book direct from the publisher in the USA, explaining that payment has already been sent to Barclays Bank. The bank account number is now 0074-2597 but payments sent to the previous account, 0074-2589, have been accepted and credited to the new account.

The price quoted was for a hardback edition sent by surface mail. A paperback edition is also available. Prices are: Hardback: Surface £10, Airmail £15. Paperback: Surface £7, Air £10. (Airmail prices recently reduced).

Thank God for 500kHz

A letter from Radio Electronics Officer Andy Bourassa WA1LJJ, in the April 1990 issue of the *VWOA Newsletter* describes an incident which occurred in 1989 aboard the car ferry mv *Green Lake/KGTI* en route from Japan to the USA loaded with new cars.

A fire broke out in the hold and the Captain instructed Bourassa to send a MARISAT message to the US Coast Guard, to the Company, and to the charterer to report the situation. The Coast Guard never replied. As it was late at night there was no-one at the Company, and the charterer did not respond until long after the emergency was over.

Conditions worsened and the REO obtained the Captain's permission to send a PAN (XXX) on 500kHz to begin to alert ships in the area. Within minutes contact was made with Japanese Coast Guard station JNN who agreed to stand by in case assistance was needed. Two ships then came up and also agreed to stand by. The fire was eventually put out, having caused around 12 million dollars worth of damage to the cargo, and the ship was subsequently in dock for over a month.

This incident, says Bourassa, shows the central problem with MARISAT in a distress situation. '...You have to rely on third parties to line up the necessary assistance for you, and they may not know what they're doing. In a few short minutes on 500kHz I was able to line up more timely assistance than our 2-3 hours of calls and telexes on the MARISAT.'

'What would have happened if we only had a few minutes to summon help, then lost power or had to abandon ship? How long would it have been before someone ashore could manage to put together a rescue effort? ...'

'I thank God we had 500kHz to summon help. I suppose I'm just whistling in the wind and ships will sail in the future without 500kHz or a Sparks. It's cheaper and money talks. But it damn sure isn't as safe, as this incident proved to me. I just thank God that I won't have to sail around out there with no decent way to summon help.'

In Memoriam

Back in MM11, an article entitled 'RIP' by Bruce Morris GW4XXF contained a request for recordings of calls on the marine distress and calling frequency of 500kHz. As the day when the distress watch on '500' will be supplanted by

the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) draws ever nearer, we would like to remind anyone in a position to record such traffic of that plea.

Especially poignant for the many thousands of operators who have kept watch on 500kHz in years gone by is the sound of the closing down signals from coast stations as they go off the air for the last time. Bruce has recently made available on cassette a compilation of recordings, made during the period 1986–88, of farewell signals from GLV, GIL, GKZ, GNI, GND, PCH and EJM, together with 'potted histories' of each station. Be warned – this recording has moved strong men close to tears!

Copies of the tape, which lasts about 40 minutes, are available from **Bruce Morris, 62 Gerllan, Tywyn, Gwynedd, North Wales LL36 9DE**. The price including postage and packing, is £5.00 or \$10 US (in dollar bills only).

Aeroflot Still Using CW

An Aeroflot aircraft working Havana Cuba/COL in CW, on 15.024MHz, has recently been copied in the UK by *MM* reader Tom St John-Coleman. Enquiries made on behalf of *MM* reveal that radio operators are still carried on Ilyushin IL62 aircraft. Further information on the continuing use of CW in aviation today will be welcome.

For Collectors

A Canadian 'Switchbox, Identification, No. 2, Mk III, Ref. 5C/372', exactly as shown on the front cover of *MM14*, is obtainable from Lance's Trading, PO Box 24, Boston, Lincs PE22 7EY (Tel: 0205-750101). In 'new boxed condition', the UK price is £20 incl. postage. The quantity available is not known so it may be better to telephone first before sending an order.

These switch-boxes with 'Morsing keys' are definitely known to have been installed on Spitfires (more information in a future issue of *MM*). If any reader can provide details of other aircraft having these keys please write to Tony G4FAL.

A small (approx 2in long) Special Services sealed key is available from Merlin Systems, Merlin Way, Bowerhill Trading Estate, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6TJ (Tel: 0225-706886), at £9.90 incl. postage. Supplies are limited so again it would be best to check first before sending an order.

Information on the availability of the above keys was provided by *MM* readers. Similar reports from other readers on available supplies of Morse keys/signalling equipment, etc., are always welcome.

Which Burton?

Letters in the *Guardian* newspaper of Oct 22 discussed the origin of the phrase 'Gone for a Burton'. Apart from the more usual explanations involving the consumption of Burton Ale, one writer suggested it went back to 1940 when RAF trainees were learning Morse in Blackpool. Those not keeping up with the course were sent for extra training in the evening to a large room over Montague Burton's shop on the promenade.

Thus, claims the correspondent, 'Going to Burtons' or 'Going for a Burton' became the phrase for any sort of failure or disaster.

Readers are asked to send to Tony Smith any news items relating to Morse, amateur, professional, military, etc., which they find and which they feel may be of interest to other *MM* readers. News from countries outside the United Kingdom is particularly welcome.

Readers' ADs

FOR SALE

J. H. Bunnell & Co's *Students' Manual of Telegraphy, 1884, and Description of Instruments Adapted for Use on Private Telegraph Lines.* Fine quality facsimile reprint. As reviewed in MM7. Excellent drawings and diagrams plus telegraph fundamentals. Overseas, US\$12.00 postage paid. USA, \$8.00. L.A. Bailey, 909 South Evergreen Avenue, Clearwater, Florida 34616, USA.

WANTED

B2 Receiver and PSU. (Have already got TX). John Pears G0FSP, 57 Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4AB, England.

British Post Office differential telegraphic galvanometer (to complete early style telegraph station). Tony Smith G4FAI, 1 Tash Place, London N11 1PA, England. Tel: 081-368 4588.

EXCHANGE

McElroy DeLuxe or Eddystone S689 bugs, both in excellent condition, offered in exchange for German Novoplex, Miniplex or Swedish bugs. Colin Waters G3TSS, 1 Chantry Estate, Corbridge, Northumberland NE45 5JH, England.

What Became of

'EY EN TOC BARRED'?

by Eric McFarland G3GMM

Taking part in CW contests in recent years, the writer has noticed a falling off in the correct use of signalling procedure.

This should not be so, for international regulations require all users of W/T, including licensed amateurs, to learn and use not only international Morse code but international procedures as well. Unfortunately, here in the UK, procedure is not taught as a separate subject for the Radio Amateurs Examination, as it is in the schools providing training for professional operators.

So a lot depends on the operator himself if he has not been professionally taught. He must rely on his own tuition, ability and motivation to learn the art of operating and the skill of handling traffic. But in these circumstances he obviously runs a risk of picking up poor operating habits.

Typical examples are the following, where a simple IMI for 'repeat' would suffice, rather than the use of plain language:

(callsign) de (callsign) PSE RPT OM K

(callsign) de (callsign) PSE AGN K

(callsign) de (callsign) PSE RPT UR RST K

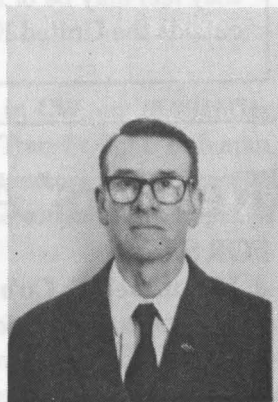
and then there's a classic I received, possibly originating from the States or from CB:

(callsign) de (callsign) R GO K

Why not just 'K'?

Procedure - What Is It?

During the Second World War, I served in the RAF as a ground wireless operator. Procedure was taught to us as a simple system of short specific



*Then and now!
AC2 McFarland, E,
in 1943 (top), and
G3GMM today*

recognised signals, sent in pre-arranged formats to convey brief information. These were intended to make message handling clear, easier and quicker, taking all the hard work out of CW, and eliminating the need for plain language where there was a pro-sign or Q-signal available – in other words a form of CW shorthand.

Likewise, amateur operators have devised a number of abbreviations for their use, such as TKS or TNX, AGN, CU, GL, TU, and CFM, and they use IMI for interrogation or 'repeat back'.

Now I come to the reason for this article. What became of the pro-sign many war-time service operators knew and used, which was phonetically expressed by my RAF wireless instructors as 'EY EN TOC BARRED'?

This strange sounding term relates to a pro-sign signal used during the war as part of the 'Allied Procedure', introduced to all allied W/T training courses around the early part of 1944.

Allied Procedure

This was in three written manuals, each approximately half an inch thick. They gave full instructions on message construction, compiling priorities of rank and procedure; traffic handling; station organisation; control zones; broadcast systems; as well as guard and identification systems. All of this at the time was, of course, 'classified information'.

The procedure was designed to be used as a common link between all Allied Forces W/T stations. Each had their own independent procedure, used between their own stations on land, sea and air, but use of Allied Procedure ensured that all could understand the same information.

Russia and other countries since forming the Eastern bloc used it. The Axis powers, Germany, Italy and Japan had operators trained, as we did, to intercept enemy traffic. Operators throughout the world, therefore, knew of and recognised EY EN TOC BARRED.

What Did It Mean?

It was the pro-sign for Interrogation or Question Mark, and was sent by signalling the letters INT in exactly the same way as other pro-signs, eg, IMI, AS and AR.

INT is placed in front of another pro-sign or Q-signal thus making a question. It is also used for correction or message query.

Examples: If you only receive an incomplete callsign (C/S) from a station calling you, or you wish to work a station calling CQ or QRZ, the following transmissions can be made.

INT de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ C/S K. (What is your call sign?)

INT de C/S $\overline{\text{IMI}}$ C/S K. (Please repeat your call sign)

And for queries on traffic and message content:

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ K. (Shall I carry on?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ R K. (Have you received?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ C = word or part message = K. (Is this correct?)

$\overline{\text{INT}}$ placed in front of a Q-signal is virtually self-explanatory, and makes it a question:

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QSA K. (What is my signal strength?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QRM K. (Have you got interference?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QRN K. (Have you got atmospherics?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QRL K. (Are you busy?)

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QSY K. (Shall I change frequency?)

Some amateur uses:

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ RST K.

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ UR RX or TX K.

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ UR ANT K.

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ Watts O/P K.

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ UR QTH K.

C/S de C/S $\overline{\text{INT}}$ UR NAME K.

If any readers have had the opportunity to hear the excellent lecture on 'Japanese Morse' by Ken Kendrick G3CSG, they may have noted that the same pro-sign for interrogation, $\overline{\text{INT}}$, was used in the Japanese procedure. Whether this was borrowed from the Japanese for use in the Allied Procedure, or it came from somewhere else, I cannot say. It would be interesting to know who invented it, and which procedure it came from in the first place $\overline{\text{INT}}$?

Never Queried

Wartime W/T operators, especially in the RAF, as I know for sure, learned and used Allied Procedure. There must still be many of them among present day amateurs, all very familiar with the pro-sign $\overline{\text{INT}}$, yet in my years of operating on the amateur bands, since 1950, I have never heard this signal being used. And when I have used it myself, from force of habit, the meaning of this strange sounding signal has never been queried.

I hope the information contained in this article will provide a helpful lead to good operating, especially to the newly licensed operator, and possibly even for the older hands. Let's use $\overline{\text{INT}}$ more often! As can be seen from the examples, it is a very useful signal and when sent on the key it has a lovely rhythm making it stand out. Should any station hear, or have the pleasure of

working, G3GMM they can rest assured they will hear it used as required, so be prepared ...

de G3GMM $\overline{\text{INT}}$ QRV QXC $\overline{\text{AR}}$

Eric McFarland had just left school at the outbreak of war in 1939. He joined the Air Training Corps where he learned Morse at 12wpm. He joined the RAF in 1943, becoming a wireless operator, and saw service in India, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, Egypt and Iraq. He was demobbed in 1948 but 'very often wished I had made the RAF a career'.

One of his duties was taking down 'broadcasts', sent by Creed machine at 18wpm with repeats run through at 22wpm. These sessions lasted 3-4 hours at a time, with some individual transmissions, eg, 'demob' information, taking a full three hours to complete.

Apart from anything else, his handwriting had to be readable. He comments, 'That's one thing professional operators had to be good at. Not only did they have to write down what they had heard, but it had to be legible as it was passed on to routeing clerks and cipher people.' MM can vouch for the fact that he still has a good hand!

On the Mill

Whilst recuperating from my recent illness, I've been taking the chance to catch up on some reading and research. Looking through an encyclopedia for something totally unrelated, I came across a section on inventions, which includes a lengthy entry under the heading 'Typewriter'. It lists the first recorded patent for a typewriter design as having been issued to an English inventor, Henry Mill, in 1714, though there is apparently no evidence that a machine was built.

This set me wondering whether this fact had any connection with the habit of telegraphists of referring to a typewriter as a 'mill'. It seems rather a tenuous association, but I can find no other connection between the words in either English or American dictionaries or encyclopedias. Does any reader have any other information on the possible origins of the term? If so, I'd love to hear from them.

Geoff G3GSR

An Innocent Abroad

by John Lingards Sykes G3SRK



After less than four weeks experience as radio officer of the coasting vessel ss *Whitwood* my employer, The Marconi International Marine Communication Company, considered me ready for deep-sea duties. I was appointed to the ss *Kassala*, another coal carrier but twice the size of my first ship and loading for Genoa.

The romance of my situation, twister-in to merchant navy foreign-going officer in less than twelve short months seemed almost too good to be true. Italy had always held a special place in my heart ever since making up my mind to become a radio officer. After all, my boss, Senator Marconi was an Italian and every schoolboy knows that Christopher Columbus himself was Genoese and sailed from Genoa to find the New World.

The voyage from Sunderland to Genoa through the notorious Bay of Biscay, past the mighty rock of Gibraltar and across the eastern Mediterranean was scheduled to take twelve days and the good ship *Kassala* did it on time. The dreaded Bay of Biscay turned out to be as calm as a duck pond. I was both disappointed and relieved. Gibraltar was as impressive as I had imagined and the Mediterranean was blue and smooth. Nevertheless on the early morning of the twelfth day I dressed in my best uniform and was ready to go ashore hours before we tied up.

Noticing that the Chief Engineer was still in his working clothes I asked in some surprise: 'Aren't you going ashore, Chief?'

'I've been here before, Sparks, and I don't think I'll bother the beach this time.'

His words staggered me and I never guessed how short a time it would be before I echoed them. I had no duties in port and as soon as the port doctor and the customs officials had completed their routine duties I was free to step ashore.

The Great War had ended just six months earlier and I was a bit apprehensive as to how this late enemy country would receive me; with clenched fists or open arms? I could not possibly have guessed. Immediately upon walking through the dock gates I was attacked; no, not attacked; besieged, by

a host of twenty or more thin, ragged and very dirty urchins all chanting the one English sentence they had been taught: 'Johnny, Johnny, you come sleep my sister. Only fifty lire.'

So that was it!... We had defeated them in war and now they were endeavouring to subvert us by propagating their pernicious siesta habit. Certainly they must be in a bad way if beds had to be shared, but they were not going to catch me. From the appearance of the touts themselves it was certain that the beds would have fleas and probably bugs as well.

Besides, it was only ten o'clock in the morning and I was not going to hang around three hours just to indulge in an afternoon nap. With great difficulty and only after scattering a handful of small coins I managed to escape my besiegers and set about exploring my first foreign city.

The city was disappointing, run-down and shabby. The evidence of poverty and defeat both moral and physical was everywhere. Shops empty of goods and the people on the street empty of hope. The buildings that appeared white and stately, when viewed from a few miles out at sea, revealed themselves on close-up as dirty grey tenements, dilapidated and neglected. Several times during the course of the next hour I was stopped and, in sign language, asked for a cigarette but I was a non-smoker and unable to oblige.

The few items for sale that I did see looked very cheap in terms of the prevailing rate of exchange though doubtless expensive to the local people. I was particularly impressed by the sight of a magnificent lobster, bearing a price tag of 20 lire (about a shilling). I would buy it and present it to the officers' mess. It would make a welcome change from salt beef and dry hash. The smiling shop-keeper, in response to my pointing finger, lifted the lobster from the window onto the counter and then picked up a large knife.

'No, no, total, completo!'

I signalled that I required the whole lobster at which the patron placed it on a pair of scales and said something in Italian. Unable to understand I handed him a pencil and mimed that he should put it in writing. This he did: 850 lire!

Indignantly I pointed to the price tag, 20 lire. I was informed in passionate language that even I could understand that the price was 20 lire per 25 grams or just about an ounce and the scales read one and a half kilograms. With my face redder than the lobster I fled the shop to imprecations very like 'perfidious albion' as spoken in Italian. It was time to return to my ship and dinner of salt pork and dried peas.

However, returning to the ship proved less simple than I had imagined. I had not taken particular notice of where she was lying. After all the

ss *Kassala* was easily recognisable on account of her yellow funnel. On entering the dock area I looked around for my ship and to my consternation there wasn't a yellow-funnelled vessel in the harbour, not one! I was in a state of near panic. Had my floating home been moved around some corner or had she sailed and left me to those sleepy sisters and irate shop-keepers? Where was the British consulate?



At the end of a dreadful half hour I managed to find an Italian seaman, who had a smattering of English and to him I explained my plight. I was told not to worry and that in exchange for five English shillings, handed over in advance, he would guide me to my ship.

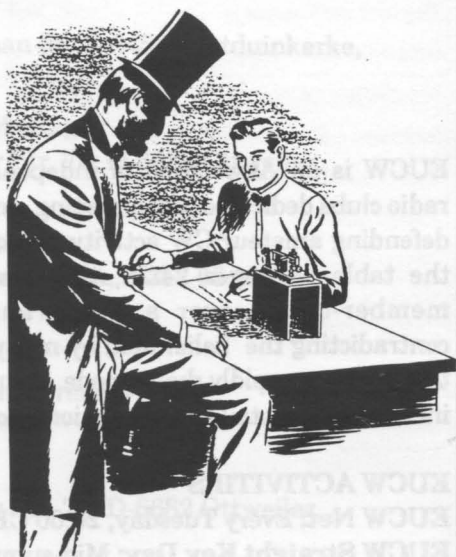
Never was money handed over more willingly nor guide followed more closely. We walked not more than four hundred yards and there was the dear old *Kassala*, but now with a BLACK funnel. The explanation turned out to be very simple; the ship had been sold whilst on the high seas and after I had left her three hours earlier, the funnel and masts had been repainted in the new owners' colours.

Gratefully I ate my pork and peas followed by rice and prunes before retiring to my cabin and a British siesta in my own bunk followed by a game of draughts with the Chief. I had had enough of foreign parts for one day. ♣

Civil War Telegraphy

by Donald K. deNeuf WA1SPM (SK)

During the tragic Civil War between the States, the telegraph played a very important role. President Lincoln frequently visited the Telegraph Office of the War Department to keep abreast of developments. One of the official operators was Jesse H. Bunnell. Old letters of an officer attached to Lincoln's staff tell how the President would quietly perch himself on a corner of Bunnell's desk and listen in thoughtful fascination to the click-clack of the sounder as it tapped out messages from the Union forces.



Then he would ask softly – with the gnawing ache of anxiety showing in his eyes – ‘Anything new, Jesse?’ After the end of the War Bunnell established a company manufacturing telegraphic instruments under his name.

Telegraph lines of the enemy were often ‘tapped’ to intercept messages being transmitted, with an operator climbing a telegraph pole and clipping in the instrument on the line. These instruments were very small – pocket sized – with a closing cover. Some were equipped with contacts on the armature so that the instrument could be used as a relay when desired.

No doubt, as intelligence activities have learned through the ages, it is far more fruitful to intercept your enemy's communications than to disrupt them. ‘Listen and Learn – Cut and be Uninformed’.

Tethered balloons were used for front line observation purposes, manned by a Morse telegrapher who would, through a lightweight pair of conductors wrapped around the tethering line, report information on enemy activities to the commanders on the ground. Historically it doubtless was the first operation of the Morse telegraph ‘in space’.

The electrical telegraph brought to an end the restrictions of darkness and inclement weather imposed on signalling by flags and heliograph. It worked just as well in darkness as in daylight. +

The European CW Association

EUCW is an Association of independent amateur radio clubs dedicated to supporting, encouraging and defending amateur CW activity. As can be seen from the table on pages 24/25, the Association and its member-clubs cover a wide range of activities, contradicting the belief held by many non-CW operators that CW is a rapidly dying mode. Future issues of *MM* will include more detailed information about individual clubs.



EUCW ACTIVITIES

EUCW Net: Every Tuesday, 20.00 CET, on 3.555MHz.

EUCW Straight Key Day: Mid-summer. Publicised annually.

EUCW Fraternising CW Party: November. Publicised annually.

Individual club activities: See table. Details from clubs.

EUCW AWARD

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse (born 27 April 1791), the EUCW Award is available to all amateur CW operators worldwide for contacts taking place on or after 27 April 1991.

The Award certificate depicts a map of Europe at the time of Samuel F. B. Morse. Full information available from the EUCW Award Manager on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope (own country) or 2 x IRCs (overseas countries).

EUCW NOVICE AWARD

During the first 12 months of holding an amateur licence an applicant must work 50 different stations using the CW mode. This award has encouraged many newcomers to take up CW. Full information available from the Novice Award Manager on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope (UK) or 2 x IRCs (foreign). The award is available to all amateurs throughout the world.

EUCW Member Associations

Addresses for further information:

EUCW Chairman

Oscar Verbanck ON5ME, Pylyserlaan 58, B-8458 Oostduinkerke, Belgium.

EUCW CW Fraternising Party Manager

Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Str. 74, D-6682 Ottweiler, West Germany.

EUCW Straight Key Day Manager

Hans Nottehd SM7SWD, Tessingsvag 17 A, S-217 58 Malmoe, Sweden.

Novice Award Manager

A. D. Taylor G8PG, 37 Pickerill Road, Greasby, Merseyside L49 3ND, England.

EUCW Award Manager

Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Str. 74, D-6682 Ottweiler, West Germany.

Activity Group Telegraphy (AGCW-DL)

Joachim Hertterich DL1LAF, Luttjohann St. 22, D-2300 Kiel 17, West Germany.

Belgian Telegraphy Club (BTC)

Mr Luc Vinck ON7VU, Kapellelei 26, B-2510 Mortsels, Belgium.

Benelux QRP Club (BQRP)

P.O. Box 15, 2100 AA Heemstede, Holland.

FISTS CW Club (FISTS)

Geo. Longden G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Road, Darwen, Lancs BB3 2LZ, England.

First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC)

Dennis Andrews G3MXJ, 18 Downsview Crescent, Uckfield, East Sussex, England.

G-QRP Club (GQRP)

Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV, St Aidan's Vicarage, 498 Manchester Road, Rochdale, Lancs OL11 3HE, England.

continued >

EUCW MEMBER SOCIETIES - ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION. (No information available on INORC)

(X = Yes)	AGCW	BQRP	BTC	FIST	FOC	GQRP	HCC	HSC	INORC	SCAG	SHSC	UFT	VHSC
Magazine/newsletter	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Magazine main language	Ger	Dut		Eng	Eng	Eng	Span	Ger		Scan		Fr	Eng
Occasional other language	Eng						Eng	Eng					
Approximate membership	1600	300	230	500	500	4000	130	1600		400	120	450	280
Restricted membership (by invitation)					X								
Speed qualification for membership, wpm								25			50		40
Foreign members welcome	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Foreign members must have Spanish call							X						
Foreign members must speak French												X	
Awards (open)	9	1		1		X	2	2		2		2	
Awards (internal)					X	X						3	
Awards (membership diploma)			X										
Contests (open)	11							2				1	
Contests (internal)					X								
Trophies	1					X		1		X			
Nets	X	X		X			X			X		X	
Slow (beginners) nets				X						X			
Dial-a-sked for beginners				X									
Training/operating Advice Service						X							
News bulletins	X						X			X		X	
Straight key events	X			X			X			X			
QRP activities	X	X				X							
Propagation tests						X							
DXpeditions								X					
Club meetings		X					X						
Attends exhibitions/fairs, etc.		X		X		X				X			
Members' QSL bureau				X		X							
Kits for members						X							
Discounts from traders				X		X							
Training aids						X				X			
Affiliated to National Society	X					X		X					X

Hispania CW Club (HCC)

Jero Orellana R. EA3DOS,
Box 10516, 08080 Barcelona,
Spain.

Italian Naval Old

Rhythmers Club (INORC)

N. Mastroviti IT9XNM,
P.O. Box 104, 96011 Augusta,
Italy.

**Radio Telegraphy High
Speed Club (HSC)**

Ernst Manske DL1PM,
Ansgarstr. 14,
D-2105 Seevetal 11,
West Germany.

**Radio Telegraphy Very
High Speed Club (VHSC)**

D.J. Hoogma PA0DIN,
Schoutstraat 15,
6525 XR Nijmegen, Holland.

**Scandinavian CW Activity
Group (SCAG)**

Christer Karlsson SM7KJH,
Briggatan 25, S-234 00,
Sweden.

**Super High Speed Club
(SHSC)**

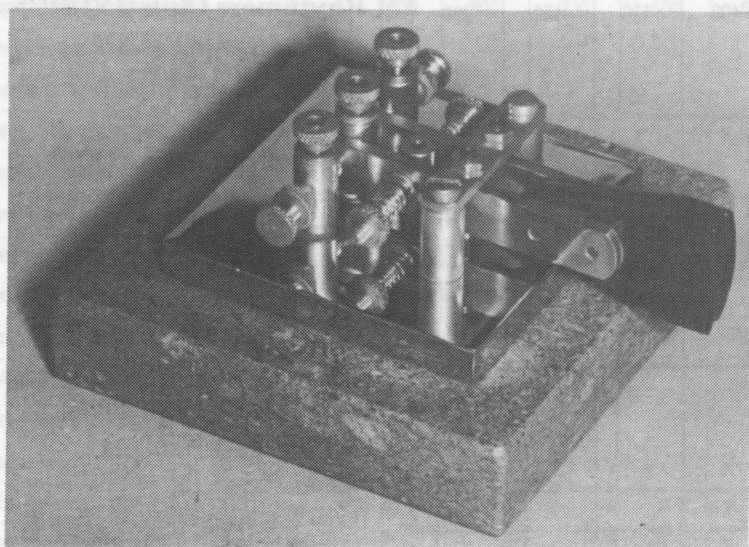
Oscar Verbanck ON5ME,
Pylyserlaan 58,
B-8458 Oostduinkerke,
Belgium.

**Union Francaise des
Telegraphistes (UFT)**

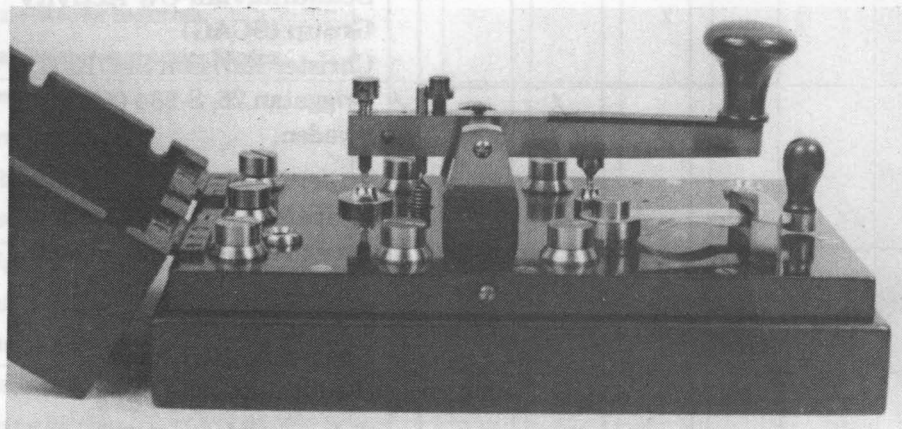
Dominique Bourcart FD1OEB,
36 rue de Terron,
08430 Poix-Terron, France.

Showcase

Featuring keys and other collectors' items of telegraphic interest. If anyone can add to the information given, please contact TS

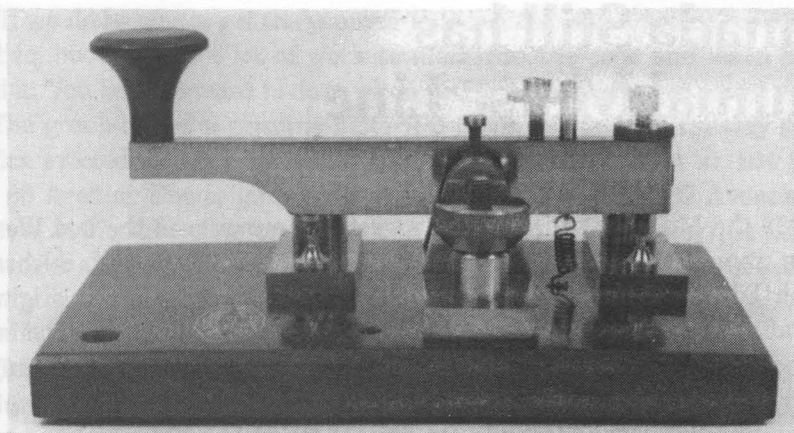


A non-commercial paddle of plated steel and brass on a Cumbrian green slate base.
Photo/Collection: Larry Robinson G0THR



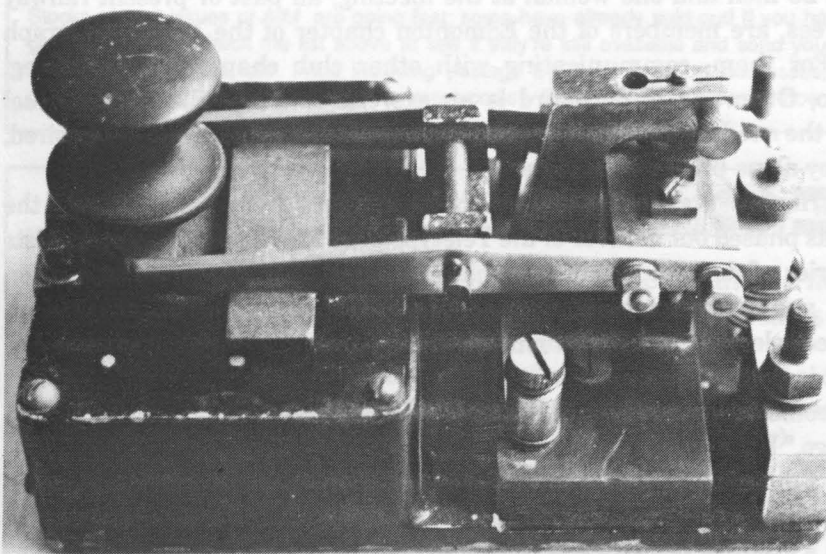
This GPO key was unearthed by G3UEN just after WWII, having been in his loft for 40 years(!) and has been 'sympathetically' restored by G3BEX. Any info on this key and the type of circuit it was used on will be most welcome.

Photo/Collection: Lee Grant G3XNG



G6HD and G3AJP (both life-long Pye employees) suggest from the logo that this key was made between 1896 and 1913. GM4SID, a post-war employee, adds that W. G. Pye was a determined DIY man, and that the key was probably a 'one-off'. The machining is a little crude in places, but the working parts are superbly engineered having, for example, replaceable contacts. Has anyone else come across a key made by Pye?

Photo/Collection: Lee Grant G3XNG



Admiralty key.
Photo/Collection: R. E. Barratt G4WJB

Canada Still has Annual Morse Line

In 1989 the Morse Telegraph Club regretfully announced the last Western Union annual all-points hook up between chapters of the club celebrating the birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse. This special yearly circuit originated soon after the 1942 establishment of MTC, and has finally been terminated because of WU operations re-organisation, resulting in the company no longer having the equipment to establish the 'wire'.

The line linked into Canada courtesy of CN/CP Communications and it appears that chapters 'over the border' still have the facility no longer available to their American brothers. As evidence of this, the following report appeared in the *Edmonton Examiner* of 6 May 1990, under the heading 'Railway hobbyists keep alive a dying skill'.

'As they do each year, a group of local hobbyists congregated at the Calgary and Edmonton (C & E) Railway Museum in Strathcona, April 28, and paid tribute to a man born 199 years ago.

They gathered round a telegraph transmitter and sent messages by Morse code. (*American Morse - Ed.*)

The 26 men and one woman at the meeting, all past or present railway employees, are members of the Edmonton chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club. For them, communicating with other club chapters in Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, and Stratford is an exercise in nostalgia. Like Samuel Morse, the need for his system of dots and dashes on the railroad has expired, and they alone preserve his legacy.

Bill Harmon was a CNR telegrapher and dispatcher from 1948 until the code was phased out in favor of the Teletype in 1973. The Morse code consists of a series of dots and dashes for each letter of the alphabet, punctuation marks, and a few common words. Though difficult to learn, Harmon says practiced telegraphers can transmit at a rate of about 50 words a minute. For them it is a skill not easily lost.

"It comes back quickly. I don't think you forget it. It's like a second language," he says.

The Edmonton chapter was formed four years ago and Harmon hopes to expand the club to Kamloops, Calgary, and Vancouver. He suspects it will remain a group of former professional telegraphers.

"It would be nice to get the younger kids interested in the museum to keep it alive, but it takes a lot of work to memorise the code and learn how to send it. You have to want to do it when you're not going to get paid."

The group added a genuine historical touch to the 1891 railway station replica erected in 1982 by the Junior League of Edmonton at 104 Street and 86 Avenue. The original station sat at 103 Street and 82 Avenue from 1891 to 1907. According to museum co-chairman Maggie Carr, it handled passenger and baggage transportation and its agent, holding one of the more prestigious jobs in the community, was the combination bank manager, ticket agent, and telegrapher.

The replica is actually modelled on the original station with the addition of plumbing, electricity, and central heating. Built with the original style of wainscoting windows and hardwood floors at a cost of \$182 000, the station is now the Junior League headquarters and home to a display of authentic black and white photographs of the Edmonton area in the late 1800s...'

Thanks to Moe Lynn VE6BLY for submitting the above newspaper report

Morsum Magnificat BACK ISSUES

YEAR	Issue (X = sold out)			
	1	2	3	X
1986/87	1	2	3	X
1987/88	X	6	X	8
1988/89	9	10	11	12
1989/90	13	X	X	16
1990/91	17			

Stocks of past issues of *MM* are going fast; some have already sold out! If you have any gaps in your set, check the list above to see if they're still available and send your order NOW, before it's too late. Price including postage £1.75 each to UK addresses, £1.85 overseas. Deduct 10% for orders for 3 or more copies. See inside front cover for how to pay.

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Bermuda Days

by Chas Claydon GM4GNB (SK)



Bermuda Dockyard Radio – callsign BZB – what bright images the name evoked... of gleaming transmitters, rows of receiving consoles and tall masts bearing large antenna arrays.

I had arrived in Bermuda late in 1926 as a member of a naval draft. We set sail from Liverpool in the RMS *Orbita* of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and after a twelve-day voyage in pleasant weather were landed at the RN Dockyard.

We had stopped briefly at La Rochelle, to pick up a party of emigrants bound for the Argentine. They included some twenty or so young professional ladies in the care of a sharp-eyed chaperone and a muscular Parisian pimp. This latter, it was observed, shaved each morning with a wicked looking open razor which he selected from a battery of them in an inside pocket of his jacket. He was given a wide berth, as were the young ladies.

Then there was an ex-officer of the Prussian Guard. A tall man, built on the lines of the late Field-Marshal Hindenburg, with a long duelling scar on the right side of his face running from eyebrow to chin. A charming man with fluent English, he hoped to start a new life in the Argentine. His female companion was an equally tall, blue-eyed blonde, with a touch of mammary hypertrophy and minimal English, consisting mainly of terse phrases indicating a desire for solitude. There were other passengers, but less deeply etched on the tablet of Memory, they have faded somewhat.

Reality

As we landed in Bermuda, the reality of Bermuda Dockyard Radio became apparent. A small corrugated-iron shed stood near the edge of a long jetty to which two light cruisers of the America and West Indies Squadron were secured. Overhead, a single multi-wire antenna of the 'sausage' variety was suspended between the topmost point of a huge steel sheerlegs and the tower

above the dockyard clock. The centre-tap feeder entered the station via a porcelain lead-through insulator in the roof ridge.

One half of the double door had departed on the wings of the wind during a wild, hurricane-filled night and had never been replaced. The inner screen door was opaque with impacted insects and dust. Inside to the left was a small workbench with a vice. To the right, a desk and chair. The rest of the available space was taken up by a 5kW spark transmitter in a steel safety cage and a small 'silent cabinet'.



This was so designated by its method of construction. An inner and outer skin of wood was packed with thick felt. The door too was lined, and when that was closed all was soundproof.

This was very necessary in those not so far-off days when the signals emanating from rather insensitive carborundum and steel crystal detectors were unamplified.

No Regeneration

In the cabinet, the bulkhead bore the assorted fixed and variable inductors and capacitors that comprised the standard naval Model C tuned circuit. Replacing the crystal detector there was a three-tube 'straight' receiver, lacking regeneration. This was of no great moment on a wavelength on which

CW was conspicuous by its absence. We maintained continuous watch on the commercial wavelength of 600 metres. Every variety of spark might be heard as well as MCW and ICW.

A rather feeble wall light with a thick domed glass cover, above and behind the operator's head, was augmented by the bright emitters in the receiver. To the right of the bench was a hand operating key and on a narrow shelf at right angles was the telephone that connected us to the outside world of the islands.

Just outside the door, convenient to the operator's left hand, was the starter for the rotary converter, a pair of which were housed in an adjacent shed. Admiralty regulations warned operators to switch on slowly, stop by stop. This was honoured in the breach more than in the observance I fear. Few telegraphists could resist the temptation to zip the starter on to experience the exhilaration of transmitting on the swiftly rising scream of a 5kW rotary-gap spark note.

Beneath the starter stood a pair of hefty lead-acid accumulators which supplied the filaments of the receiver's bright emitters, while underneath the bench a long wooden box containing eighty dry cells connected in series constituted the HT supply of 120 volts.

Left On Our Own

The station's complement was four telegraphist ratings as watchkeepers with a chief petty officer telegraphist in charge. The Chief it was who dealt with any administrative matters and made up the monthly account for the cable company. He was a decent sort and apart from looking in briefly during each forenoon watch he left us to our own devices. We were empowered, on behalf of the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, to accept, and charge for at the prescribed rates, any cablegrams handed in by members of the local population. These we passed by phone to the company's head office in Hamilton, the capital.

We kept watch in accordance with the naval watch system known as 'twenty-four about'. This meant that each watchkeeper did three four-hour watches in every other twenty-four hour period with a clear twenty four hours off. All commercial traffic from ships was passed by phone to the Cable office. Any commercial traffic for ships was kept on file if they were not yet in our area and their callsigns included in the Traffic List we broadcast at intervals.

Our main sources of traffic were the two ships of the Furness Withy Line, the *Fort Victoria* (VRV) and the *Fort George* (VRW), which maintained a twice-

weekly service, in opposite directions, between Hamilton and New York. Each had an excellent Telefunken transmitter with a very distinctive high spark note. So distinctive in fact that it was often possible to pick out their signals amid a welter of lower spark notes as they 'cleared' with WNY (New York Harbour) nearly eight hundred miles distant. They wasted no time in firing off their telegrams from passengers making reservations for Bermuda hotels. After a preliminary call they would, if our signals could just be made out, transmit the first telegram and close with 'if R dashes'. Upon receipt of dashes they would send another telegram, and so on, until the traffic was cleared. As the voyage progressed and communication improved, they would ask for and receive confirmation of receipt. It was a good practical system that worked well due to understanding between the ship and shore operators.

Other Vessels

Other ships called at the islands from time to time, notably those of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line. The occasional tourist cruise ship and cargo vessel visited Hamilton and rakish-looking rum runners jostled at the wharves and jetties loading duty-free liquor before attempting the hazardous run up to America's east coast and Rum Row. Visiting US Coastguard cutters no doubt eyed these 'prospective customers' with professional interest as Prohibition still had some years to run before President Roosevelt brought it to an unlamented end.

An exotic 'bird of passage' which visited the naval dockyard during my time was the four-masted schooner *Four Winds* captained by Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt, MP. She had an all-Japanese crew.

1928 saw the sinking, in a storm off Cape Hatteras, of the Lamport and Holt liner *Vestris*. She was said to have been overloaded. I listened to the distress traffic with an American coast station (I think it was WIM - Chatham, Massachusetts). I have never heard six hundred metres so quiet as the *Vestris*' chief radio operator worked away on the key until the point when the rising water reached his generator. He resumed with the emergency induction coil set but after a few minutes that too was not to be heard. The Chief, Michael O'Loughlin, went down with the ship. †

**GEOFF G3GSR AND TONY G4FAI
WISH ALL READERS OF MORSUM MAGNIFICAT
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1991**

Bain's Chemical Telegraph

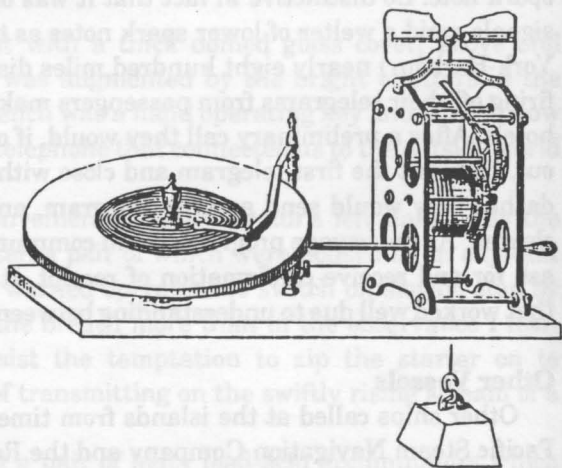
by Donald K. deNeuf
WA1SPM (SK)

Alexander Bain, a Scotsman, in 1848 developed a unique telegraph system employing perforated tape for transmission, and for reception used moist paper tape which had been treated with a metallic salt. The tape, drawn by a clockwork-like gear train, passed beneath a metal stylus. The flow of electric current from the telegraph line through the paper caused electrolytic decomposition of the salt and stylus, leaving a visible discolouration.

On one special demonstration Bain showed that the system was capable of transmitting and receiving at speeds as high as 1000 words per minute! This startled and amazed telegraphers but there is no evidence that such speeds were ever used in actual message handling. Normally a hand-operated key similar to that used on magnetic Morse lines was used rather than the perforated transmitting tape. Later another type of recorder was employed involving treated paper placed on a brass turntable similar to the principle used later for the phonograph.

Bain's telegraph was noiseless and did not use an electromagnet. It was thus thought to be free from infringement on the Morse patent, and Bain received a US patent on it in 1849. In the same year the North American Telegraph Company was incorporated using the Bain equipment and it soon became a competitor to the Magnetic Company which used the Morse system.

It grew rapidly and within only two years more than 2000 miles of line had been placed in service between New York, Washington, St Louis and New Orleans. But the Magnetic Company obtained injunctions against the Bain system on the basis that Morse's patent covered chemical recording



Courtesy Porthcurno Telegraph Museum

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Morse & Bain Telegraph. Two names seldom seen together

methods. The Court agreed that the Bain patent infringed on the 1840 Morse patent. Negotiations started for consolidation of the two systems. Since Bain lost his patent protection he agreed to the merger for \$38 000 worth of Magnetic stock. Magnetic soon ordered all chemical telegraph gear to be replaced with conventional Morse. Bain's system was reliable and could operate at fast speeds on extremely small line currents but only when a single line was strung on a pole.

As soon as additional wires were installed alongside they induced currents which caused havoc with the system. Incidentally the Bain system did not use Morse's code and instead employed one Bain himself had developed. Samuel Morse was highly in favour of replacing his 'spaced-dot' code with Bain's code but stubborn Morse operators flatly refused to learn the 'new-fangled' code. As a result it fell into complete disuse. It is shown below. +

A .-	K .--.	U -.	1 .----
B .-.	L	V ----.	2 .----	/	-----
C ...	M .-.-	W ----.	3 .----	?	-----
D .-.	N .-.-	X .-.-	4 .----	ε	-----
E .	O -	Y --	5 .----		
F .---	P -.-	Z ---	6 .----		
G .-. .	Q .-.-		7 .----		
H .-.-	R .-.-		8 .----		
I . .	S .-. .		9 .----		
J .-. .	T .-. .		0 .----		

Happy Days!

by Tony Smith G4FAI

Alfred Paice's article ('CQ from the past', MM8, p.10) brought back a few memories for me as I too learned Morse in the Scouts, round about 1946. Instead of Cheeky-Charlie Queer-khaki-cow, however, I learned Charlie-Charlie God-save-the-Queen for CQ. I too forgot it over the years, but when I became interested in Morse for the amateur test, thirty years later, it was still there and I had to consciously unlearn the mnemonics as the sounds of the words would just not fit in with the Morse symbols as I tried to attain higher speeds.

As I recall we had to learn Morse and semaphore for different badge levels, 2nd Class, 1st Class, etc. We had Morse instruction by buzzer and flag to reach about 5wpm, and I can remember taking my test realising that the tester was little better at it than I was!

Signalling was very much part of Scouting then, so I have had a look at some old copies of *The Scout* magazine I still have from those days. Right from the beginning there was a link with telegraphy, as described in this first ever report of a Scout Troop's activities in the first issue of *The Scout*, 18 April 1908. (No! I wasn't actually around then.)

'Mr Norman A. Collard, Scoutmaster of the Canterbury Troop of Boy Scouts has got funds for his Troop by giving a lecture on the subject of "Wireless Telegraphy", illustrated by lantern slides of the Marconi and the Hertz system on board HMS *Dreadnought*, and in the German Army, etc. This is a lead for other Scoutmasters to follow.'

Signs

In that same first issue, a feature called 'Things All Scouts Should Know' explained the meanings of various 'signs' to be found in town and country.



There was A SIGN WORTH NOTING – 'Should you happen to be at a wayside railway station and see a large red capital T painted on white background and hung outside the booking office, you will know at once that postal telegrams may be sent from that particular station. Not one person in a hundred knows the meaning of this sign.'

Then there was THE SIGN OF THE UNDERGROUND WIRES – 'Storms and high winds generally make havoc with the telegraph system of this country when they visit us. Not only does the system get out of order, and

telegrams are consequently delayed, but much money is unnecessarily expended in putting things right again. So the Post Office are expending immense sums of money in placing the more important telegraph wires underground. To show the position of these underground cables, small iron plates, similar to that in the picture, with particulars as to the depth of the wires below ground, are being placed directly above them.'



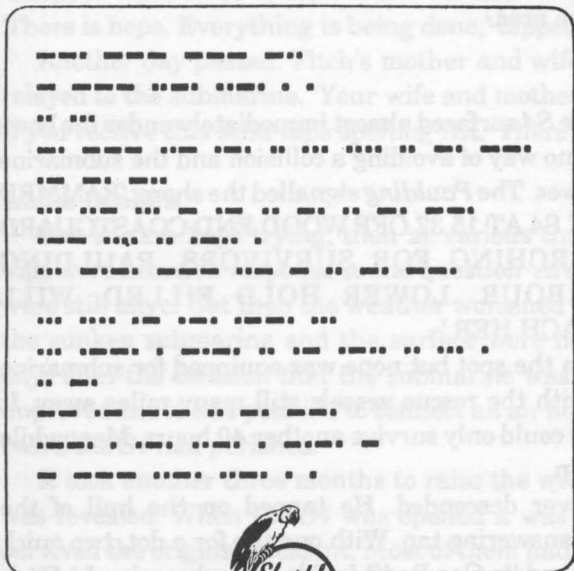
Sharp's the Word

Over the years, thousands of boys must have learned Morse in the Scouts, and presumably a good number of girls in the Guides too. By 1946, if not before, the makers of Sharps Toffee demonstrated their confidence in this supposition by advertising their products in *The Scout* in Morse code.

In 1948, the 40th birthday number of the magazine carried an advertisement asking 'Is Your Hobby Radio?', and offered ex-RAF Morse Training Sets, containing buzzer and artificial interference circuits, with valves, for 27/-, or as a complete kit with Morse key and headphones, for 32/-.

I don't think they do signalling in the Scouts today. It seems a great shame and they're missing a lot of fun. The new UK amateur Novice licence is, however, supported by the Scouts and other organisations, so we may yet see a revival of interest in the Morse code in the Scout movement.

Happy days, when the most important problem in my life was the need to get my First Class badge in time to qualify for attendance at the 1947 World Jamboree in France. I made it, but only by the skin of my teeth! Mr Paice's article has made me quite nostalgic!



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Tapping the Code

by David Prout G8FEX

'The Case of the Missing Dashes' (MM6, p.21) asserts that it is not possible to send Morse dashes by clicking rocks together, using shoe taps, or tapping lunch trays, etc. The alternative described was a dashless code used by US prisoners of war in Vietnam. This reminded me of the tragic story of the submarine *S4*, and how Lieutenant Fitch communicated with the surface in Morse code, with a wrench, after the submarine had been sunk in an accident.

On 17 December 1928 the US submarine *S4* with 38 men on board put to sea from Provincetown for trials after a re-fit. The submarine was not accompanied by a surface ship, an omission that was to have disastrous consequences. The *S4* submerged with no other ships in sight, but whilst underwater the *Paulding*, an ex-destroyer in coastguard service en route to Provincetown, sailed into the area.

Collision

By horrible mischance the *S4* surfaced almost immediately under the bows of the *Paulding*. There was no way of avoiding a collision and the submarine disappeared beneath the waves. The *Paulding* signalled the shore: 'RAMMED AND APPARENTLY SANK S4 AT 15.37 OFF WOOD END COASTGUARD STATION. BOATS SEARCHING FOR SURVIVORS. PAULDING PROVINCETOWN HARBOUR. LOWER HOLD FILLED. WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BEACH HER.'

Many ships converged on the spot but none was equipped for submarine rescue. The 18th dawned with the rescue vessels still many miles away. It was estimated that the crew could only survive another 40 hours. Meanwhile the weather was breaking up.

At mid-day the first diver descended. He tapped on the hull of the submarine and received an answering tap. With one tap for a dot, two quick taps for a dash, the diver asked 'Is Gas Bad?' Inside the submarine Lt Fitch replied 'No but air is. How long will you be now?' 'How many are there?' tapped the diver avoiding this question, 'There are six. Please hurry. Will you

be long now?' 'We are doing everything possible,' hammered the diver.

This conversation was monitored above on a hydrophone. Hope began to rise. A rescue fleet was on the way and work started on trying to raise the submarine. The good news about Lt Finch and his companions was flashed around the world.

Air Bad

But the 19th was stormy and work had to be stopped. Messages were passed between submarine and surface as the weather grew worse. Then after they had been trapped for two days, Fitch hammered 'Enough oxygen to last until 6pm'. An air-line was attached but the submarine tapped 'Salvage line is flooded. Water is about eighteen inches deep. Air very bad.'

All night the weather remained rough. Then the submarine sent 'Oxygen bottle empty. Can you send down a couple?' They also asked for food but nothing could be done. 'Two floating cranes are on the way now' transmitted the surface. 'Where are the cranes coming from?' asked the submarine. 'New York. Will air last until tonight?' asked the surface. 'It will last until six tonight,' tapped Fitch.

The weather did not improve. 'How is the weather?' asked the submarine. 'Choppy. Wind force 4, replied the surface. 'Is there any hope?' sent Fitch. 'There is hope. Everything is being done,' tapped the surface.

Another day passed. Fitch's mother and wife sent a message which was relayed to the submarine. 'Your wife and mother constantly praying for you. If you receive this send taps spelling AR.' There was no reply.

Links Broken

The surface kept trying; then at various times through the night three taps were heard in response to the question 'Are you all right OK?' The men were still alive! But then the weather worsened again and the links between the sunken submarine and the surface were broken. It was not until four days after the collision that the submarine was relocated. The weather had improved and it was possible to connect an air hose. But it was too late. All on board the *S4* had perished.

It took another three months to raise the wreck and then another horror was revealed. When the *S4* was opened it was found that all the men had survived the original accident. Most of them had been forced into the forward torpedo room where they had died comparatively quickly – probably at about the time the first diver arrived. If only the rescue could have been effected more quickly they might all have been saved.

Last Message

There was only one message found inside. This simply said 'My body to Pelnar, 6569 South Nineteenth Street, Omaha, Nebraska'. Also found was chipped paint on a dented part of the hull, and a dented wrench which had been used to tap out the Morse code.

Abstracted from Fifty Great Tragedies and Disasters that Shook the World, published by Odhams in 1937

Swiss Telegraphs

The Telegraph System of Switzerland is very complete, the aggregate length of the wires being at present greater than in any other country in proportion to population. There are now upwards of 2000 offices; those in the large towns are open from 6 or 7am till 11 or 10pm according to season ... For telegrams handed in at a railway station an additional charge of 50c. is made. Telegrams may be handed in at any post-office from which, if not itself a telegraph-office, they are transmitted without delay to the nearest ... Telegrams from foreign countries should be addressed 'telegraph restante' (instead of 'post restante') as in this case they may be called for at any time and not merely during the official post-office hours.

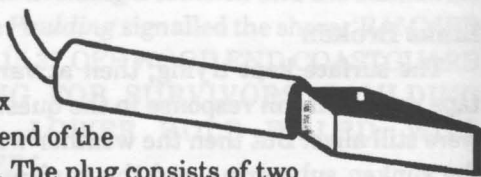
From Baedeker's Switzerland, 1901

So That's What it is!

The old advertisements for Vibroplex bugs show a rather odd plug on the end of the lead. I recently found out what it is. The plug consists of two flat pieces of metal with an insulated strip in between them. It is designed to be pushed into the gap of a straight key, thus connecting the bug into the keyed circuit.

The reason for this is that bug keys were the personal property of the operators. The straight key, which was screwed to the table, was standard issue. I learnt this from talking to a 'dispatcher' (now retired) who I met at a railroad museum in California. This was the only good thing about a recent business trip!!

Gerald Stancey G3MCK



A New Approach to Learning?

by Neil Trainor VK3IJ

I feel that we haven't yet started to teach Morse in a really effective way for everybody. We know that different people learn in different ways – some take in knowledge best from what they hear, others from what they see, etc. Some methods used require at least one 're-learning' phase which is wasteful and confusing.

Psychology is producing several new approaches to learning. We know something about how the different sides of the brain work, and ways of making use of this knowledge can enhance the learning process.

Such new techniques as 'Super Learning' and 'Neuro-Linguistic Programming' [1] may open up a whole new approach to teaching Morse, although both these approaches tend to exclude people like myself whose visualising ability is very low. One method, the idea of which appeals to me, could be a computer program which sends Morse as follows:

1. Characters (2 or 3 seconds apart) sent at the speed at which you wish to be competent, e.g. 25wpm.
2. One second (or less) after each character is sent, that character is displayed on the screen, giving instant confirmation or otherwise to your answer.
3. As competence is gained at any speed, the spacing between characters is decreased.
4. As further competence is gained, characters can be sent as groups or plain language, with the group or word being displayed as a unit on the screen – not each character singly as before.

Something like this could present audible and visual stimulation virtually simultaneously and be more effective than either by itself.

Some of the long-held theories may be due for revision. In the past, with some reason, it was recommended that Morse code learners should develop an appropriate degree of competency in receiving before attempting to send. There may be a case to put for starting to use a key much earlier, as long as it is used into a computer which gives a direct read-out. This would mean that, right from the start, a student has a good idea of the readability of his fist and gets positive reinforcement of his message and its accuracy. †

Reference

- [1] Ostrander & Schroeder, *Super Learning*, Sphere Books, 1981.
Richard Bandler, *Using Your Brain – for a CHANGE*, Real People Press, 1985.

Morse Bicentennial

Advance Information

FOC Jubilee 1991 Open to All

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse, the First Class CW Operators' Club will hold a special Jubilee activity period, for both members and non-members, world-wide. This is not intended to be a pure contest, but more a celebration of Morse code and its use in world-wide communication.

The period commences Saturday, 27 April 1991, the bicentennial anniversary date. Morse was 80 years old at the time of his death so the requirement (task) for FOC members is to work 40 EU plus 40 DX members in 40 days. Non-members should work as many FOC members as possible within the same 40 day period.

During the weekend of 27/28 April 1991, station G4FOC will be especially active, contacting Jubilee participants and other special event stations celebrating the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse.

The Jubilee period is from 0000GMT Saturday, 27 April 1991 to 2400GMT Wednesday, 5 June 1991.

Frequencies and Mode: 1.8–28MHz (except WARC bands), CW only.

Eligible Entrants: All licensed operators;

Exchange: RST plus club initials if appropriate, e.g., 599 FOC, 599 GQRP, 599 HSC.

Scoring: Total number of QSOs.

Logs: Use any convenient log sheets/log books giving details of callsign, date, time, frequency and reports exchanged, together with club member details if appropriate.

Address for Entries and Closing Date: Peter Miles G3KDB, PO Box 73, Lichfield, Staffs, England, by 5 July 1991.

Awards: (a) for non-members of FOC, an engraved paddle to the station

contacting the greatest number of FOC members within the 40 day period, (b) for members of FOC, a plaque to the station contacting the greatest number of non-members active in the Jubilee, also to the station completing the members' task first.

W1AW SFBM Code Proficiency Award

To commemorate the Morse Anniversary, the American Radio Relay League is instituting a special Samuel F. B. Morse Bicentennial Code Proficiency Award. The first qualifying transmission will be at 2300UTC on Saturday, 27 April 1991. For further details see the News pages in this issue.

MTC Celebrations

As mentioned in MM17, The Morse Telegraph Club hopes to complement its landline celebrations for the Morse 200th anniversary by linking with amateurs in other countries via on-the-air CW activities. Clubs or individuals organising special event stations for the occasion are invited to write to Robert A. Hibbard W8MYU, 3541 'H' Dr. South, East Leroy, MI 49051, USA, with a view to arranging possible skeds with MTC stations at various locations in North America.

Celebrations at Locust Grove

Poughkeepsie Radio Amateur Club will operate special station K2KN from 1400-2000UTC, on April 27, at Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, New York, the country estate of Samuel F. B. Morse from 1847 to 1871. CW frequencies will be 3.710, 7.110, 14.050, 21.110, and 28.110MHz, ± 10 kHz. A special QSL card will be available via ARRL bureau.

Locust Grove, now known as the Young-Morse Historic site, is a designated National Historic Landmark open to the public for much of the year. A continuing bicentennial celebration for the summer of 1991 is planned and details will be published in *MM* when they are known.

Nottingham Special Station

The Amateur Radio Club of Nottingham will celebrate the bicentennial by operating GX6CW/A from the Arnold & Carlton College of Further Education. Operation will be on April 27, and possibly the 28th. The club hopes to be active with high power on HF; low power on 40 and 80m; and on VHF. The site is excellent for 2m and extensive coverage can be expected on that band. Enquiries to Ron Wilson G4NZU, 9 Greythorn Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7GG.

Darwen Activity Week

Darwen (Lancashire) Amateur Radio Society plans to hold a special activity week, in the foyer of the local public library, to celebrate the Morse anniversary. Application is being made for a special call sign. Enquiries to Geo Longden G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Road, Darwen, Lancs BB3 2LZ.

Cheltenham Celebrations

Smiths Industries Radio Society will celebrate the Morse anniversary by operating a special station on April 27–28, using the club's own call, GX4MEN. Enquiries to Ray Godwin G4YIX, Smiths Industries Radio Society, c/o The Club House, The Newlands, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham Glos GL52 4SF.

Morse Memorial Day at Maassluis

Advance notice of this event was given in MM17 (p.2). It is known that at least one party plans to travel from the UK, and other *MM* readers from countries outside the Netherlands will also be very welcome. The meeting will be held on April 27, from 1000 to 1600 hours at the Cafe Centraal, Haven 44, Maassluis, with refreshments available throughout the day. The cafe is 10 minutes walk from Maassluis Centrum, the second station from Hoek van Holland (do not leave the train at Maassluis West!).

A special call, PA6MMD, will be used to exchange greetings with other amateur stations celebrating the bicentennial, and there will be a special QSL card. Dick Kraayveld PA3ALM, who is organising the meeting writes 'We hope to meet ex-sparks, marine telegraphists, radio-amateurs, etc. There is a possibility of visiting the National Tug Museum during the day, also the ship of the Sea Cadet Corps, Maassluis.' For further information, contact Dick at: Merellaan 8, 3145 XE Maassluis, HOLLAND. Tel: 01899-18766.

AGCW-DL Morse Memory Week

AGCW's celebration is during the week immediately preceding the bicentennial date, from 0000UTC April 20 to 2400UTC April 26, on all bands 160–10m (including WARC bands), plus 2m and 70cm.

All contacts CW only, using hand-keys, bugs, or el-bugs (no keyboards, etc!). Accumulate points for each normal QSO (not numbered contest exchanges), including RST, QTH and name. HF contacts count as 5 points, 2m and 70cm contacts, 8 points.

Participants sending entries with at least 40 points will receive a commemorative QSL, and those with 200 points or more will receive a commemorative certificate. Entries, listing contacts in alphabetical order,

and points claimed, should be sent, postmarked no later than May 20, to Stephan Forka DL9MFG, Jochstr. 13, D-8100 Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany.

FMC Morse Memory Day

'The Friends of S.F.B. Morse' (FMC) are organising a 'Morse Memory Day' on all CW bands, HF, VHF, UHF and SHF, from 0000 to 2400UTC on April 27.

Participants: All licensed amateurs, or SWLs, anywhere in the world.

Mode: CW only. **Call:** CQ MMD.

Exchanges: Normal 2-way contacts, with reports optionally including details of membership of one CW club, e.g., /FMC, /AGCW, /HSC, /FISTS, etc. To avoid contest-type operation, no consecutive QSO numbers should be given. **Contacts:** Each station may be worked once per band.

Logs: Participants who work at least 20 stations are invited to submit logs, postmarked no later than June 30, to Dr. K. H. Ruggeberg DJ4FP, Kaunitzstr. 3, D-4781 Oestereiden, Germany.

Entries should include a separate signed sheet showing participant's call, full name and address, transmitted power, antenna, type of key used, e.g., straight, el-bug, etc., and total number of QSOs on all bands. Participants satisfying the above requirements will receive a special QSL.

New EUCW Award

The European CW Association's 'Worked EUCW' Award will be launched on 27 April 1991, the date of the Morse bicentennial, with an award certificate 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 RF output transmission power; and 'SWL', for short-wave listeners. The certificate is printed on heavy parchment type paper.

The requirements of the award are confirmed CW only contacts (for 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.

To encourage activity on the bicentennial day, up to 40 stations worked or heard on 27 April 1991 will count as double contacts, while all other requirements remain unchanged. Full details of the award may be obtained by sending 2 IRCs to the EUCW Award Manager, Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illingerstr. 74, D-6682 Ottweiler, Germany.

International Marconi Day

By coincidence, IMD 1991 is on the same day as the Morse bicentennial. To celebrate this event, the Marconi Radio & Electronics Society will be operating GB0IMD in conjunction with the Cornish ARC at Poldhu and stations at other historic sites throughout the world. Most operation on April 27 will be by telephony but throughout April, prior to and after the 27th, GB0IMD operated by G3FWE on the Isle of Wight will use CW (21MHz for international contacts), and will be especially pleased to work stations celebrating the Morse anniversary.

No UK Commemorative Stamps?

In response to a request, early in 1990, for a special stamp issue to commemorate the 1991 Morse anniversary, the British Post Office replied that special issues were normally planned about two years in advance and that as a matter of policy foreign personalities were not featured on British stamps.

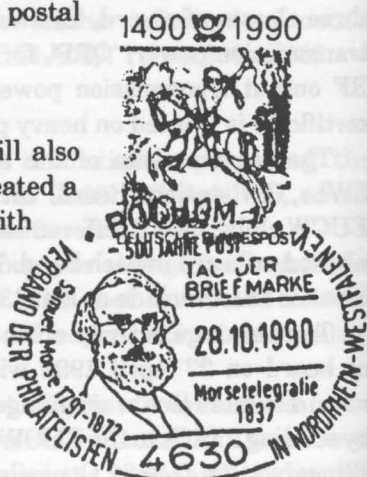
MM reader Reg Stockwell G0GZJ has recently written to his Member of Parliament pointing out, among other things, the invaluable role that Morse telegraphy played in saving thousands of lives at sea, in peace and war, and the vital role it played during WWII, particularly in clandestine operations. His MP agreed with Reg's comments and passed his letter to the appropriate Minister at the DTI, in the hope that it might still be possible to arrange for a commemorative stamp, or stamps during the anniversary year.

Reg suggests that other *MM* readers should write to their own MPs, setting out their own views on the contribution that Morse has made over the years, and urging that a commemorative stamp, or stamps should be issued by the British postal authorities.

German Morse Postmark

Although the German postal authorities will also not be issuing a Morse stamp, they have created a special Morse postmark which was used with a '500 Year's Post' commemorative stamp issued on 28 October 1990. The postmark (right) has a sketch of Morse and bears the inscription 'Samuel Morse 1791-1872'.

It also commemorates the year of the first public demonstration of the Morse telegraph, 1837.



Keep *MM* Informed!

Readers having information about special activities planned for the Morse bicentennial which have not yet been reported in *MM* are urged to send details to Tony Smith for inclusion in the next issue.

Special Issue of *MM*

Our next issue will be *MM*'s own celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse. It will be a 'Bicentennial Special' with authoritative articles about the great man himself and his original invention; the development of the code, from the numerical system of 1832 to the Continental version of 1850; plus many others covering various aspects of early Morse telegraphy. There will also be a last-minute round-up and reminder of all reported celebration activities.

All Morse enthusiasts should have a copy of this special issue on their bookshelves. Single copies may be obtained if required. Please tell your Morse friends about it, or order them a copy as a gift!

Readers' Letters

Knives and Forks and Dummy Keys

Like Tom Lloyd (*MM*16, p.12), I too used the knife and fork method. In training at Catterick in 1939, Morse learning was by lamp and flag to the tune of hiddy-hiddy-hiddy-humpty-hiddy (VE). After a few weeks we were introduced to the Post Office sounder to the same tune. During meal times a metal knife and fork was used like a Morse key on the enamel table tops, sending short messages to your friends across the table. The noise from about a couple of hundred Morse maniacs can be imagined – until the Orderly Officer entered and the order 'Quiet' was screamed!

A few days after the start of WWII, we were each issued with a Dummy key (see *MM*15, cover and p.28). No more hammering on table tops was allowed but each evening we had to practise our Morse sending and receiving, still to the same tune. On becoming Assistant Operators we began work and study of Radio, using No. 1 and 11 sets, again to the same tune, and making sure we weren't 'Nerve Sending' with stiff wrists. Later we had to leave our Dummy keys with the Stores, on being posted to Liverpool, and never saw them again.

I'm still a Morse enthusiast. I left Royal Signals after 14 years to join what is now called GCHQ, where I carried on as a Morse maniac for another 30 years.

Len Pearson G3JFE

Just rambling...

Dad's Army Morse

I have a copy of *The Home Guard Signalling Manual*, published 1942, which was written to help Home Guard units obtain a working knowledge of signalling with improvised equipment. This will form the basis of an article in *MM* in due course. In the meantime I would be pleased to hear from any readers with personal experience of, or information about, LDV or Home Guard signalling, to help me compare the manual with the reality.

Whither Amateur CW?

I was interested to note in December's *Radio Communication* that the Radio Society of Great Britain has set up a 'Towards 2000' group, chaired by G3AEZ, to discuss trends in amateur radio operating over the next decade as a basis for future Society policy.

In view of the current controversies over the need for amateur Morse tests and the significance of CW operating in amateur radio today, it must be assumed that recommendations on what the RSGB's policy should be towards the future of CW operating will form an important part of the group's discussions. This is not unreasonable, but how will the group obtain the views of interested parties on this subject?

The same issue of *RadCom* announces that the Packet Working Group has been formed into a new Committee of the Council known as the Data-Comms Committee, and there will no doubt be plenty of input from this committee into the 'Towards 2000' group. There is, however, no RSGB CW working group or committee to do the same thing, although I venture to suggest that datacomms operators are still very much a minority compared to the number of CW operators on the bands.

Write a Letter!

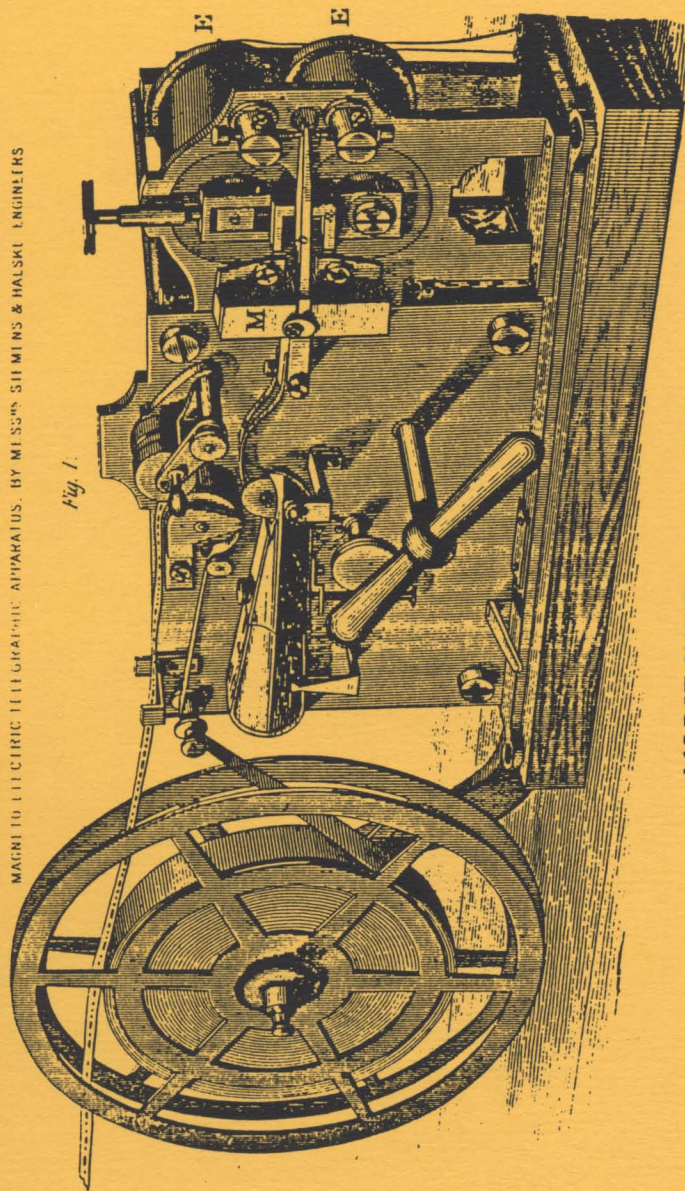
I haven't seen any invitations for comments yet, but perhaps interested RSGB members and affiliated organisations should write to the 'Towards 2000' Group, via G3AEZ, to express their views on the future of amateur CW. Such correspondence would demonstrate that interest in the mode is still high and that its practitioners do not expect their national society to abandon its traditional recognition and support of CW.

73, Tony G4FAI

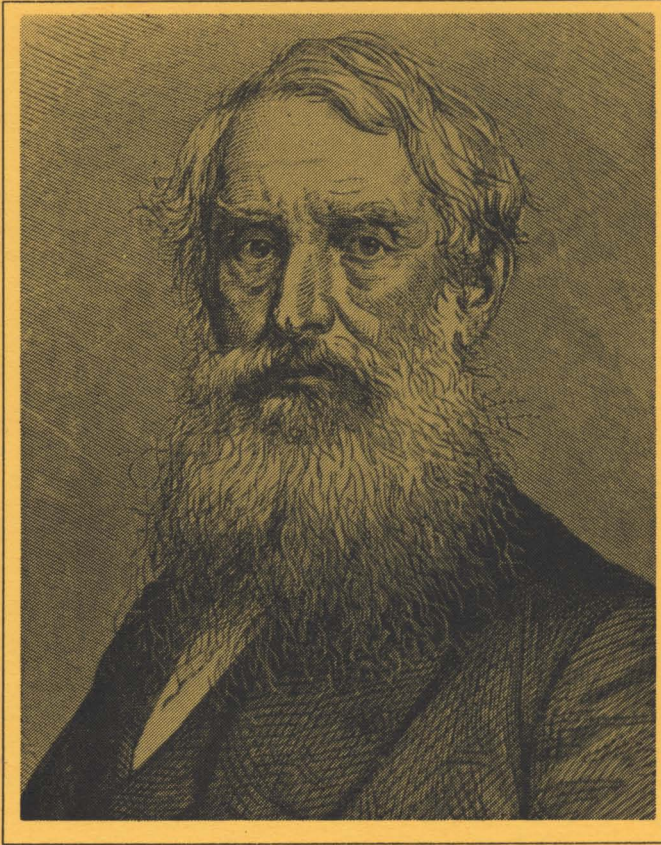
PORTHURNO TELEGRAPH MUSEUM

MACHINE FOR ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHIC APPARATUS. BY MESSRS SIMMONS & HALSKO ENGINEERS

Fig. 1.



MORSE INKER circa 1870



Sam. F. B. Morse..

