

THE VMARS NEWS SHEET

A publication of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society

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www.vmars.org.uk

M0VMW

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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WS12 (part of a quite rare WS12/R107 combination dating from 1941 and pictured on the back page of the current Issue of Signal) belonging to Mike Buckley M1CCF, being restored by Martin Smyth M0MGA

VMARS AUCTION

Saturday 30th June 2012

10.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Kinerton Village Hall, Kinerton, Warwickshire

The fourth batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC will be auctioned on Saturday 30th June 2012. The catalogue is being sent out with the current issue of the News Sheet. Doors will open for viewing at 10.00 a.m.

Visit to RAF Cranwell

Anne and I recently paid our second visit to RAF Cranwell. We were delighted to be able to visit the flight line, and witness our brightest boys and girls training for various roles including Fast Jet and Transport. The majority of this training uses the Beechcraft King Air; these aircraft are leased and run by an American partner company.

After lunch in the candidates' Mess, I decided to try and call in to Trevor's PA3BOH Wednesday 40 m net, and spotted some trees which were ideal to sling up a long wire, some 33' unravelled from the Kevlar Clansman wire dipole element. After a quick chat with the OC of Air Traffic Services at Cranwell, I was taken to the ground radio crew who asked about power level, frequency and antenna. Twenty watts of SSB on 7073 kHz posed no problem and it was a case of go and get on with it. We were even given a cuppa to take over to the sun-drenched piece of landscape!



Having established myself on 7073, I very soon heard Trevor working a Belgium Station, who gave me a 5/9 report; the Syncal 30 was doing the business. Trevor also gave me 5/9. A short time later John G6RAV was heard at 5/9 +15 dB and Peter G8CDC romped in at 40 dB over 9, Les 2EOIBM was 4/4 with me, but every word could be copied. The whole exercise lasted some 30 minutes, but interrupted by the live air display of the Beechcraft King Airs doing their circuit training, the F16, or Eurofighter, that did three touch and go's. I only saw the side elevation of the bird, so was not able to verify aircraft type, but very noisy, a delight for any avid aviation enthusiast!!

I have been given permission to go back again soon, and intend to stay overnight. That way I might get the chance to put up a dipole. It is a shame that I had not informed members of the Riviera RS from Torquay, some of whom I had been working several days earlier. I also worked the AOTA (Airfields on the Air) station at a disused airfield at RAF Haldon Moor and I shall certainly be working them again with the hope of activating one or two myself. Interestingly, Halfpenny Green, my local field (Harvard training in Wartime) have had a 'wings and wheels' event the last three years. I took the Land Rover down last year and worked several stations from Cornwall to GM land on 5 MHz, and the Syncal 2000 worked extremely well with the 16' whip. I was very pleased with the reports also.

Stuart McKinnon G0TBI

Visit to Member Martin Scobie M0IME

Anne and I were very pleased to be able to visit VMARS Member Martin Scobie M0IME who has been a Member for a few years and now resides in Torquay, luckily only 1.7 miles away from our hotel.



Martin, an avid restorer, is pictured above operating his restored B2 Spyset. He uses it with a frequency counter and a CW keyer and, knowing the receive stability of the B2, I can understand why he should opt for better frequency control so as not to miss that important sked. These extras are plug in or out, so do not compromise the vintage aspect of the set. Martin has been a BVWS Member since the mid-seventies, and his collection of old domestic sets is treasured.

Martin had actually arranged to talk to one or two Members of the GB2SPY Yahoo Group and, indeed, upon our arrival, Martin was busy on the paddle working a Dutch station who was also using clandestine equipment, and a respectable 599 both ways was achieved. Just as Anne I were saying our good byes, the owner of the GB2SPY Yahoo Group called in with a very respectable 599 signal. I thought you were next door lan (G3ROO of Dover), so a great display of this fine kit.

Martin is an old hand with a soldering iron, having worked most of his life in the TV and radio repair business. His interests are not strictly tied to radio, as Martin is a Member of the Torquay Yacht Club and goes out sailing a couple of days a week in his Flying 15, a famous design by Uffa Fox from just after the War. Uffa, of course, was famous for airborne lifeboat design to be carried in Warwicks and Lancasters, to name a couple!

Stuart McKinnon G0TBI

Kelvedon Hatch Nuclear Bunker The Bunker Bash Rally

Recently, Anne and I decided to call on one of our old friends and his colleagues from EMLRA, and decided to visit the Kelvedon Hatch Nuclear Bunker site, a supposed seat of Central Government in times of a nuclear strike.

The Bunker Bash Rally was well planned and laid out, from a central arena with armoured fighting vehicles to soft skinned patrol and signal vehicles on display, not to mention some ancient and exotic machines: Dennis Fire Engines, Antar Tank Transporter and quite a few Champs mixed in

with the other Land Rovers from Series 1 through to Defender and Wolf variants.



Anne and I met two or three VMARS Members at this event, and a rather astonishing thing happened. I was messing about with my Pye Loud Hailer, ex 156 Provo Coy RMP (so it says on the unit!) and I was imitating a CQ call in CW, when a guy came walking down the hill to say "I am here to answer your CQ call". We got chatting and, bless my soul, if I did not recognise him as a fellow Member who had kindly bid on a couple of recent items in the US for me. So it was very nice to meet up with you Anthony Rock AD1X. It certainly is a small world. The photo below (courtesy M3TBI) is testimony to the meeting.



Mick Bone and I are old chums from the days when VMARS used to exhibit at the Town and Country Festival at Stoneleigh and Berkley Castle in Gloucestershire, although that was a fair old haul for Mick who lives in Harlow. It was nice to see his SIII FFR fully kitted out with C11/R210 and C42, with a side table for RTTY. The Creed machine was missing (I forgot to ask where Mick had put that).



Pictured above is Mick with Eddie Johnson left and Jan Raalte, both EMLRA Members, getting ready to press into service his two NOS FFR batteries although, after uncovering the battery compartment, there was a cry for help. Mick had forgotten his battery terminals with wing nuts (standard issue for this installation); they had been left at home. I headed one way around the traders, and Mick the other, and (phew!) we managed to find one complete with wing nut, and the other we made do with a nut till Mick got home. It was at this point that Anne and I had to make tracks back to Harrow, where we had another engagement but, suffice to say, that if ever you are in or near Brentwood, you must visit the Secret Nuclear Bunker. In fact, it was so good, Anne thinks she will try for an educational visit with her school where she teaches. Anyone wishing to visit are advised to telephone the Bunker on 01279 412619.

Seen sporting red backpack (below) is Member Steve Parnell from Camberley explaining about Para bikes to the Chairman.



Stuart McKinnon GOTBI

Dambusters Rally

The Dambusters Rally at Thorpe Camp was very enjoyable, to say the least, but the weather was more like Siberia. Following a near disaster with the caravan (no gas for 24 hours), we survived only by the goodwill and help from the volunteers at the Camp. David G1ZQC helped with mains electricity and an invaluable kettle, whilst the Museum staff loaned us a small oil filled radiator to warm the caravan. The following morning there was a sigh of relief when I found gas a few miles away. Grateful thanks also to the team at Lamco, who did all they could to help with the gas situation



Stuart McKinnon in the shack at Thorpe Camp during the Dambusters Rally

David and other volunteers do an excellent job and also run a MW radio station that Thorpe Camp plays during opening hours. When you visit, tune into 1431 kHz on your car radio, and you will be delighted to listen to wartime music and news reports, and Mr Churchill himself. It is so realistic; if you closed your eyes, you would be transported back in time!



The VMARS Archive is located at Thorpe Camp and pictured here is Colin Guy G4DDI, Society Archivist, showing documents to Stuart McKinnon G0TBI

The rally was well attended with people from as far south as Sussex and Kent, and as far North as Newcastle. Several Members were spotted.

Stuart McKinnon G0TBI



VMARS Members attending the Luton Radio Boot Sale

Luton Radio Boot Sale

T'was a chilly and slightly breezy day but many VMARS stalwarts were to be seen at this year's Luton Radio Boot Sale. The rain held back as the weatherman said it would, but they got the temperature slightly wrong!

A good turnout of traders brought many a good item for the public to browse and to procure. Trader level was not as high as has been seen in the past and attendance appeared to be lower, but that may be due to the cooler temperatures. I can remember one year when it was a real scorcher.

It was good to meet with so many VMARS Members again this year, not just from the UK but from overseas as well. Such is the standard of this rally/boot fair.

There was a vast amount of equipment to attract all tastes from a suitcase set seen lying on the grass to the monster AR88. The item of equipment for me was the Clansman manpack at an absurd price; yes, he took it home.

You had the chance of buying 19 Sets, DX100s and Vanguards, Hamarlunds and Hallicrafters to name a few. Sorry lads, I walked away with the KW160 Top Band TX. It will fit in nicely with the KW collection.

I also had the pleasure of a chat with Mr TW. Yes, Tom Withers was there and we talked about the old Communicators and such. He would be good choice for an interview as part of a 'Signal' article.

Pete Shepherd G7DXV

List of Members 2012

You will have received the current list of VMARS Members as at 31st May 2012 with your copy of Signal. This list reflects the information which you have provided and whether or not certain details, .e.g., telephone numbers, addresses, may or may not be disclosed. This is why some of the entries appear incomplete. However, the details we hold on our database also go out of date (e.g., I see that I have been restoring that T1154 for the past 5 years!). As far as possible I have checked this year's List for consistency with that published last year but errors do creep in. So I would like to ask you to check your entry and let me have any corrections.

I would like to remind all Members that this list is strictly confidential. We must respect the fact that the information provided by Members is on the understanding that it will not be distributed outside of the Society and that it will not be stored electronically, or used for canvass or for commercial gain. Any enquiries from non-Members regarding the personal details of VMARS Members should be forwarded to the VMARS Hon. Secretary, because we do not have the right to pass on the personal details of any Member without his/her express permission.

Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF

VMARS-Member Reflector

The VMARS-Member Reflector is the only official VMARS web-based discussion Group. It is strictly for Members-only, and is closed, so that correspondence posted there cannot be viewed by non-Members. For this reason, the only way that a Member can join this Group is by invitation. I am currently bringing the Membership of the Reflector up to date and will clear out any lapsed Members whilst sending out invitations to those who have not yet been invited to join. It is then up to individuals to decide whether or not they wish to join. I occasionally receive requests from Members to join, and if you are not on the Reflector but wish to join, then please let me know by e-mail and I will attend to that as soon as I can.

Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF

New VMARS brochure

We are grateful to Ian Underwood M0YMK for producing a new VMARS publicity brochure, a copy of which is printed on the back page of this Issue of the News Sheet. This is a 4-sided A5 glossy colour booklet. It is available for use by those representing VMARS officially (e.g., rally stands), and copies may be obtained via the Hon. Secretary.

Bomber Command Memorial

The bomber command memorial is due to be opened 28th June. <http://www.bombercommand.com/> I suggest this is a good occasion to get T1154, R1155 on air as a tribute to those wireless operators of WWII. There's no need to limit it to UK but any equipment of the era. An evening of CW would be good, so we could hear what it sounded like in those days. My T1154 is up and running now, along with my vintage naval gear. af-aditel@btinternet.com

Andrew GW3OQK

VMARS Auction: Saturday 30th June 2012

The fourth batch of equipment belonging to the late John Coggins G3TFC, will be auctioned on Saturday 30th June at Kinton Village Hall. The main catalogue is being distributed with the current Issue of the News Sheet. If time permits, there will also be equipment that is not listed, and this will be auctioned as usual. Some items will carry reserves which will be at the discretion of the auctioneer.

Those attending the auction are advised that the Hall will be open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. and the auction will begin at 10.30 a.m.

As usual, Anne M3TBI will be providing her excellent catering and informs us that the menu will be as follows:

- Rolls—cheese, ham, tuna mayo on granary, wholemeal or white bread
- Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings – butter, cheese, cheese and beans, tuna mayo or Chilli
- Sausage rolls/small pork pies
- Variety of cakes and biscuits
- Crisps
- Hot and cold drinks

We look forward to meeting the 'regulars' and new Members at Kinton on 30th June.

Stuart McKinnon G0TBI

Saturday AM Net-Controller's Rota

Date	1 st op	2 nd op	3 rd op
9 th Jun	G0TBI	G4GEN	G4BQF
16 th Jun	G4GEN	G4BQF	GW8TBG
23 rd Jun	G4BQF	GW8TBG	G8AQN
30 th Jun	GW8TBG	G8AQN	M0YMK
7 th Jul	G8AQN	M0YMK	G3XGW
14 th Jul	M0YMK	G3XGW	M0TCM
21 st Jul	G3XGW	M0TCM	M0DAF

Helplines questions

110/1 T1154/R1155 questions

I have read a lot about the R1155 and have a couple of unmodified examples and a (probably late model) T1154. Is it possible to tell from the serial numbers the approximate date of manufacture? The TX has 5/51 stencilled on the front; is that likely to be a date? The serial is 106796

I have studied a lot of books, and in "Lancaster - WWII Night Bomber and Dambuster" by Nigel Cartwright (page 136) found the picture below. The caption says "a wireless operator on board an AVRO Lancaster B Mark 1 of 57 Squadron based at Scampton, Lincolnshire, speaking to the pilot from his position in front of the Marconi TR 1154/55 transmitter receiver set".

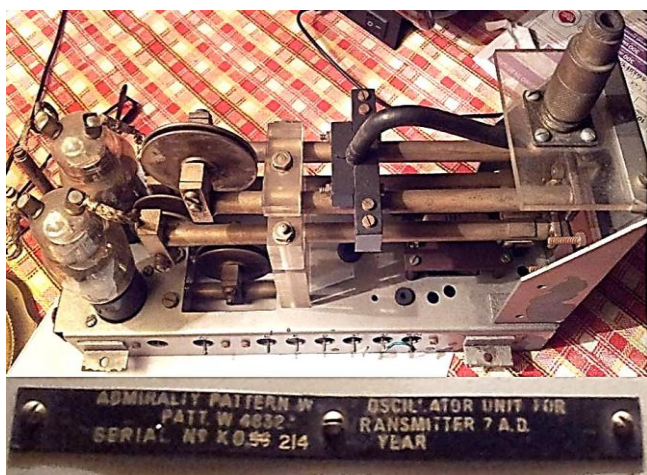


But what is the control on the 1155 receiver, to the left and below 45 degrees from the tuning knob. It appears to be a rotary switch with two positions marked "N" and "S". There is a small picture of this below. I can't find this knob or control in any other picture, or in any manual or circuit, and I have looked at a good few. Surely local modifications wouldn't have been permitted? Yet I can't help thinking that some sort of North/South switching to obviate the need for the pilot to fly a straight course, then a reciprocal to set up the DF facility would have been useful?

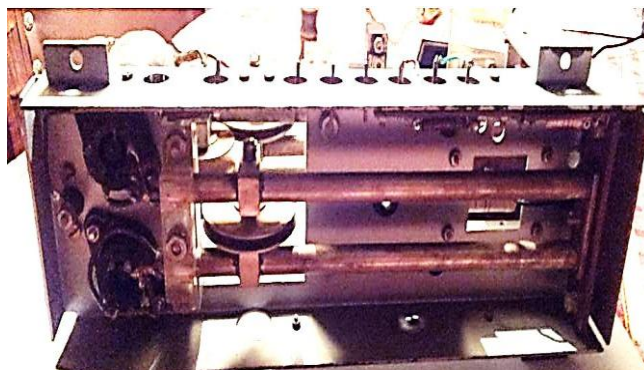


John Butcher G4GWJ

110/2 Unknown transmitter



I bought an item of RAF military radio equipment a long time ago, and I was told that it had been a special transmitter for RAF aircraft to be recognised during the landing. I restored it 40 years ago. I liked it very much because it uses 'Lecher' lines to couple the two double triode valves, the capacitor and the lines, the fascinating part being the thin layer of silver covering all the components.



I would be glad if someone is able to tell me the purpose of this equipment and the aircraft on which it was used.
aperuzzetto@libero.it

Alessandro Peruzzetto

Helplines answers

109/6 Equipment to identify

In Issue 109 of the News Sheet, Denis Deros F1AHX asks about the identity of two units; these were pictured in that issue.

Steve Parnell advises that these are Rack Assemblies Type 8 ref. 10A/12320 and Type 9 ref. 10A/12321 single channel VHF relay station desk for local or remote control over a telephone line with provision for interconnection with the remote control point and for the control of a VHF transmitter. This equipment would be located in a VHF relay station receiver vehicle.

The receiver in the centre of the rack is the R1132 (100-124 MHz), and the manual for this is available on the VMARS website.

Letter to the Editor

From Ian Underwood M0YMK

Committee Elections – 2012 AGM. An appeal.

Having very capably served on the VMARS Committee for several years, our valued Treasurer, Brian Thomas GW4KYT is stepping down from the role so that he can give more attention to his other interests and to his family. Brian's departure, which is effective from the date of the AGM on September 1st, will leave a gaping hole in our administration and on the Committee, which urgently needs to be filled.

Appeals for Members to step forward and lend their expertise to the running of the Society have generally met with a very poor response, but I am appealing to our Members now to give very serious consideration to taking on this key role from Brian. I'm sure that within our 400+ Membership we have a number of people who are quite capable of taking on the post of Treasurer and bringing fresh ideas to the running of the Society. Please step forward now and make yourself known to the Committee!

Committee Notices

VMARS AGM 2012

Saturday 1st September 2012

AGM 2012 Committee Nominations

Please note that the following Committee posts will fall vacant at the forthcoming AGM:

1. The post of Chairman as Stuart McKinnon G0TBI completes his term of office.
2. The post of Treasurer as Brian Thomas GW4KYT is retiring.
3. The post of Honorary Secretary as John Keeley G6RAV completes his term of office.

The Committee is pleased to announce that Ian Underwood M0YMK has agreed to accept nomination for the post of Chairman and would like to recommend Ian to the Membership. The post of Chairman is, of course, open for other nominations in accordance with the provisions of the Society Constitution. If Ian is elected to the office of Chairman then a vacancy for an Ordinary Committee Member will occur.

Please give careful consideration to the need to fill these vacancies. Nomination forms, to be returned to the Hon. Secretary by June 16th, are included with this News Sheet.

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Applications for Membership

We wish to welcome the following new applicants for VMARS membership:

Name, Callsign (Region)	Interests
Mr NT Squire Lincolnshire	
Mr JEK Kay M6MBZ Stockport, Cheshire	Owner of Austin Champ and Humber 1 ton. Electronics engineer with big interest in radio. Has a 19 Set, R209 and all Clansman range.

[Membership rules require names of applicants for membership to be published, before they are formally accepted as members. This allows existing members to object, if they wish. If you want to object to any of the above, please write to our Hon Sec, John Keeley – Ed.]

Sending in articles, news items, letters and advertisements for VMARS Publications

Please send copy to Colin Guy, G4DDI, by post or e-mail,

7 Herrick Court,
Clinton Park,
Tattershall, Lincs. LN4 4QU
Tel 01526 344715 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

The copy deadline for the next issue of the News Sheet is **15th June**. For articles for the next issue of Signal the deadline is **9th August 2012**, but copy would be appreciated as far in advance as possible.

Advertisements

Advertisements are welcome from all members, and also non-members and traders. The latter are indicated by "(NM)" or "(T)" after their contact details.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Rectifier type 46 Ref 10D/890 input 200/250 V output 6.3 V @13 A and 220 V @110 mA with two screened output leads and Jones plugs. Would need to be picked up as this is a very heavy unit.

Keith G1RAO 01617 979258 07808 824443
hughes_k4@sky.com

WANTED: 1 x 19 Set MkIII control box

1 X 19 Set MkIII PSU

1 X 19 Set MkIII variometer

19 Set leads (I think there are 4 that link the Set to PSU and control box etc)

Also **ANY** WS11 parts

Tony Hamilton 2E0SBS 01380 818122 07713 113142
ukib@live.co.uk

WANTED: Outer metal case for WS46 (or a suitably wrecked set to act as a parts donor since this started with a bare chassis!), webbing set carrier and the 'belt extensions' to secure the set carrier to the standard waist belt. Outer metal case for WS38 Mk.1-this is the 'L' shaped case with the built in battery compartment. A previous owner cut the case down to Mk.2 size for no readily apparent reason.

Chris Suslowicz G8KGS chris@suslowicz.org

WANTED: RCA4685/ITT 4HC170J Valve needed for my Clansman 322 amp.

James Beeney G7VAE jamesbeeney@o2.co.uk

WANTED: I'm trying to find a circuit and any other technical info for the WWII SOE 51/1 pocket TX, with the aim of building a replica.

John G8JMB jbutton@btinternet.com

WANTED: Has anyone got either a user manual or EMERs relating to the field telephone type F(Tele-F) (preferably originals) they would be prepared to loan to the VMARS Archive?

Colin Guy G4DDI 07824 356189 g4ddi@vmars.org.uk

WANTED: Modulation transformer for Panda Cub.

Howarth GW3TMP 01352 771520 jhj43@btinternet.com

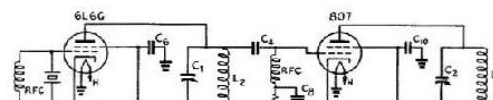
WANTED: Miniature Pye plugs as used on Wayne Kerr BC221 Bridge.

Copy of manual for HP5246L timer/counter.

Steve Parnell 0797 383 0520



Vintage & Military Amateur Radio Society



The Vintage & Military Amateur Radio Society was formed in 1999 To encourage and facilitate the collection, preservation, restoration, historical research and use of vintage military, commercial, and amateur radio equipment.

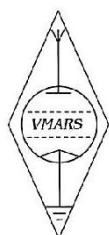
VMARS members cover a broad range of vintage equipment interests in every aspect of amateur, commercial and military communications, including radar, telegraphic and avionics equipment amongst many other related subjects.

The Society has an impressive list of services and actively encourages all members to engage in its activities. Members receive a monthly News Sheet, which keeps readers fully informed of news items about Society members, rallies, meetings, Committee announcements and equipment for sale. VMARS also produces a very informative and highly regarded quarterly technical journal, *Signal*, which covers such topics as practical tips on maintenance, repairs and modifications, construction projects and articles on the historical operational use of vintage and military equipment.

An extensive archive of manuals, circuit diagrams, historic magazines and other material is maintained by the Society and made fully and freely available to members through the Society web site at www.vmars.org.uk. The archive is being constantly updated with new material and covers equipments as diverse as early pre-war amateur and military wireless sets to Clansman military radio's from the 1980's.

Popular with VMARS members are the regular auction sales and equipment exchanges where they have the opportunity to acquire a wide variety of interesting and historic equipment, spares and ancillary items. Society members also represent VMARS at a number of rallies and events around the country, displaying vintage equipment and organising informal gatherings of members. Annual General Meetings are frequently held at Bletchley Park and combined with a related event open to the public, providing members with an opportunity to view the museum and to meet with fellow members.

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Membership enquiries – memsec@vmars.org.uk
Website – www.vmars.org.uk

AM net – 3615 KHz every Saturday at 08:30
AM calling frequencies 3615 KHz & 7143 KHz
USB net – 3615 KHz every Wednesday at 20:00
LSB net – 3615 KHz every Friday at 19:30
CW net – 3577 KHz 09:00 every Sunday
Event working on 51.700 MHz & 70.425 MHz
All times are UK local & frequencies are +/- QRM



The new VMARS Brochure. This is a 4-sided A5 booklet in full colour with gloss finish