

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club.
Newsletter. 12.09.21

Club Nets.

These continue on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. 7.30 local time. 145.400MHz FM.

G0WIS.

I have spoken with Geoff this week. He is out of hospital and back in the nursing home. He asks to be remembered to all the members. I passed on our best wishes to Geoff.
Alan G4LVK.

My life with radio. John G4PKW.

Continuing John's story.

In my last chapter I had just boarded the ship which was to take me and my fellow Royal Signal Unit to Port said in Egypt. On arrival we were trucked by road to a holding camp at Almaza. During our several days stay we were able, by way of the famous highspeed tram way, to visit the city of Cairo – a city of smells.

Eventually we set off by road and rail northwards, ending up high in the mountains of Syria where we joined the First Indian Armour Division at their Headquarters at Alba, just below the snow line and yes it was very cold after the heat of Egypt.

As with all things military, it had already been decided to move the Division back to their home in India. In the meantime, as we were waiting for the long trek back to Egypt, we were able to travel by road over the mountain pass to the ancient city of Damascus, and the lovely modern city of Beirut. Looking at the full picture, it seems we were always waiting to go somewhere! We always managed to make good use of our time – I was very lucky indeed. After the return trip, this time by road, we were again waiting in Suez for a ship to Bombay, India. The ship we eventually boarded along with a few civilians returning home to India, was an old P and O Steamship of about 17,000 tons called SS Canton.

Once under way, someone decided it would be a good idea for the Army lads to put on a variety show for the passengers. Yours truly was roped in to sing a duet with another “volunteer” and we gave a shaky rendering of “me and my girl”. It went down well enough but that was my very last time I ventured onto a stage!

After arriving in a very smelly Bombay Harbour, we were once again driven to another holding camp for a few days, on a train this time, to Secunderabad in the Deccan, central India, the home of the 1st Indian Armoured Division.

It was from there that I would finally do the job I was trained for. Several Royal Signals Radio Operators and I worked a regular CW link back to Headquarters in Delhi and other units of the Division. It was mainly in plain language or groups of code and we worked shifts. Most of my operating was in a US Army mobile radio vehicle. I think the complete unit was the SCR399 which comprised of the cabin in which was installed the Hallicrafters BC610, a

CW and AM transmitter with ATU which ran 500 watts CW and 350 watts AM. For receive a BC312 and 342 were used together with a large speech amplifier for driving the AM modulator stage. It and enough spares to almost build another set up were all contained in a cosy cabin mounted on the back of a Dodge Truck, all of which ran from a 110 Volt generator mounted on a trailer and driven by a Willis Jeep engine. Other items were two 90-foot vertical masts with Dipoles and guy ropes. Amazingly most of the US Army radio equipment was standard Amateur Gear from the vast amateur market which thrived in the United States.

To be continued.

From the committee.

NOTICE OF B&DARC EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING:

Notice is hereby given that B&DARC will hold an EGM with one (1) Agenda Item, to discuss, amend as necessary and accept the Draft Constitution a copy of which has been emailed out to members and is available from myself.

The EGM will be held on Friday 29th October 2021 at Avoncroft Arts Centre Starting at 20.00hrs.

John Storey G8SH,
B&DARC Secretary,
07759370544.

Finally,

Any articles to me please before next weekend. Remember this is YOUR newsletter.

Alan G4LVK.