

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club.
Newsletter. 31.10.21

My life with Radio. John G4PKW (silent Key)

Sadly, this is the last chapter John wrote just before his fall. We will never know the rest of John's career in the radio profession.

This final chapter is published in memory of John, and with full consent from his family.

I believe 1947 was probably one of the most eventful years of my life. During my two years in India many things had changed in respect of our Empire, the man who worked so hard for a peaceful solution to India's independence was assassinated. Lord Mountbatten had signed India's Independence Agreement and British service personnel were told "behave yourselves – you are now guests in this country".

The next major event was the return of service personnel home to the UK and begin their civilian life. In late December 1947 I saw myself with about four thousand other bods aboard the Cunard Liner M.V. Georgic bound for the UK. We docked in Liverpool at midnight, in one of the coldest winters on record, having left a sunny India of 120f and boarded a train. We travelled all night to Southampton! Would you believe it?

We were dumped at a camp at Chandlers Ford, plenty of large round iron stoves, but no fuel so we had to scout around in the woods for timber to burn. Eventually we got warm, but it was a short night.

Next day we went into Southampton where the two Queens were docked. We were all overawed by their colossal size, stripped of their luxurious interiors they were able to accommodate ten thousand personnel, so both ships spent their war carrying US Army personnel across the Atlantic, being too fast for the U boats.

In Southampton the only drink we obtain was in the local was cider and port! A combination not to be recommended, as my one and only drunken state will testify!

After a short spell in Chandlers Ford, it was decided to send us home for Christmas, so yours truly arrived home to a wife I had not seen for nearly three years.

A strange feeling, but a very happy one.

RIP John.

Club Nets.

These continue on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. 7.30 local time. 145.400MHz FM. All welcome to join in.

Alan G4LVK.