



## The World Wireless Beacon

Newsletter of the  
**Society of Wireless Pioneers, Inc.,**  
 P.O. Box 86, Geyserville, CA 95441 - 0086 USA

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March 1999

### Jack Binns and the Republic Disaster

by Jack Kelleher

SOWP 2581-P, W4ZC

This article is prompted by the widespread publicity among SOWP people on the PBS' American Experiences segment "Rescue at Sea".

Those of you who watched the PBS program "Rescue at Sea" on February 15th got an insight into the earliest days of maritime radio, and Jack Binns' part in the rescue activities following the collision of the Republic and the Florida. Here are some other excerpts from Sparks Journal articles which dealt with the aftermath of the Republic incident.

**From Sparks Journal, Volume 1, No. 4, 1978 (Jack Binns edition).**

"On board the doomed Republic was Mr. Ingersoll, whose company made the then-famous 'one-dollar movement' - the Ingersoll watch which millions carried with them in their vest pockets. Grateful for being res-

cued, Ingersoll ordered medals struck for Binns and other heroes of the ship's crew.

"Binns gave a thrilling account of the suspenseful moments in the battered wireless cabin, the walls of which had been splintered in the collision. He was able to send a total of 200 messages before the ship went down.

"A tremendous ovation greeted Binns and others when the Baltic docked at the White Star pier in New York harbor with the Republic survivors. Binns and Captain Sealby were carried on the shoulders of grateful crew members of the deck and stewards' departments. On February 10, 1909, Binns received the first gold watch for wireless heroism at sea, the presentation made by Guglielmo Marconi himself.

"Like other wireless operators of his day, Binns was paid one dollar a day for his services. Following the loss of the Republic, he signed a contract to tour a vaudeville circuit across the nation so that he might relate his harrowing experiences to a startled audience. He could ill afford to pay his own expenses while on the road, so he accepted

a small remuneration for his appearances. For this action he was roundly criticized by the public at large, and his image as a national hero suffered greatly. Soon it was necessary for him to abandon his tour.

"He was responsible for the rescue of 761 passenger and crew members of the Republic, without loss of life or accident. It was a noble accomplishment. But his appearance on the vaudeville stage cost him the loss of the image he so rightfully deserved".

**And from Sparks Journal, Vol. 8, No. 1, September 1985:**

Binns writes preface for Radio Boys Series

A very popular series of books for boys - The Radio Boys Series - was published from about 1915 to 1925 by Grosset and Dunlap. They were authored by Allen Chapman. Jack Binns was commissioned by the author to write a Preface or Foreword for each book published. These carried a fine inspirational message for boys and it also recalls an era when wireless was indeed a Magic Word.

## The President's Message

By Jack Kelleher

SOWP 2581-P, W4ZC

For some time SOWP Executive Secretary has been considering the possibility of reprinting some of the historical material appearing in the Sparks Journal (circa 1977-1985), but so far it is beyond the reasonable capability of SOWP's treasury. Re-reading the Radio Aviation Edition of the Sparks Journal (September 1983) I ran across an item which is important enough historically to run in this space, albeit in installments.

### The Early Communication System of the Federal Airways

(continued from The World Wireless Beacon, December 1998)

#### The Day's Work

By 8:30 in the morning the station operator would usually have completed all his calls and seen his pilot off the ground, shooing stray cattle off the strip, if necessary, helping sort and stow mail, and looking after supplies. e was then free until about 4:30 in the afternoon, when he stood a second four hour shift, servicing the arriving daylight flight, and the departing night flight.

If a landing in darkness or poor visibility was anticipated he prepared to light the airfield with the best means at hand - automobile headlights, oil drums, flares, etc. Snow drifts often had to be cleared from the runway and runway edges frequently needed definition in the form of lighted markers.

If field conditions were too poor for a safe landing, the station operator had to warn the pilot, using pre-arranged signals. Many long and lonely nights were spent waiting anxiously for the husky roar of a Liberty engine - that

sometimes never came.

The typical starting salary for these early station attendants was \$1,200 a year. Raises were modest and infrequent and overtime was unpaid. By comparison, the pilots earned a base pay of \$2,000 a year with mileage bonuses, depending on the difficulty of the route. Bonuses were doubled at night, when the hazards increased several-fold.

The typical Air Mail plane in the pioneer stage was an open cockpit DeHavilland biplane, with an unreliable compass and little else in the way of instruments. Pilots flew "by the seat of their pants", and counted heavily on the airfield attendant to keep them out of trouble.

#### July 1927 - USLHS takes over the new Agency

On July 1, 1927, after 7 years of regular Air Mail Service, the Post Office turned over the ground-support facilities to the Department of Commerce. At the time of the transfer, more than two-thirds of the 2,665-mile Transcontinental Airway was lighted with 101 electric beacons and 417 acetylene gas beacons. Ground personnel in the system consisted of 45 radio operators, 14 maintenance mechanics and 84 caretakers. The entire operation was administered by the Lighthouse Service of the Department of Commerce.

In addition to the 17 original Air Mail (renamed airway) Radio Stations, there were a number of intermediate Airway Keeper Stations with low power radio marker beacons. Many of these were located in desolate wilderness country or on high mountain passes accessible only by mule team. Bitter Creek and Cherokee in Wyoming; Locomotive Springs in Utah; Beowawe and Buffalo Valley in Nevada; Guadalupe Pass in Texas and

Donner Summit in California were typical station sites.

At Donner Summit (alt. 7,100 feet), the tower and radio shack had to be anchored to solid rock in order to keep them from being blown away by the fierce winds of the high Sierras. Often the station keepers were snow-bound for months.

Maintaining a remote station called for a high degree of ingenuity, a tolerance for isolation - and at times the agility of a mountain goat. Skis, sleds and snowshoes were standard operating equipment during the long winter seasons. Shelters were prefabricated wooden huts, drab and drafty and furnished strictly for utility, housing one to four men. Total annual outlay at these locations was about \$12,000, which included salaries and supplies. A good hunts-man was always a welcome addition to the complement.

Lighting the airway and extending the radio capability had a favorable effect on flight safety from the very beginning. The 1919 fatality ratio of one pilot killed for every 114,324 miles of Air Mail flight was reduced to one fatality per 2.5 million miles by 1926.

In 1938 the Airways Radio Station was re-designated "Airway Communication Station", under the newly created Civil Aeronautic Authority (later the Civil Aeronautics Administration of the Department of Commerce). By this time, thanks to air-to-ground radio capability, station operators could actively participate in the control of a flight in progress, giving the latest weather reports and helping the pilots identify local landmarks and find their bearing.

The term "flight service station" (note 3) came into use with the creation of the Federal Aviation Agency in 1958,

(continued - next page)

**President's Message** - From Page 3 and continued to the date of this chronicle (1976), when FAA is the Federal Aviation Administration of the Department of Transportation.

Today's flight service station specialist no longer is required to lead the rugged pioneer life of his predecessors in the Air Mail and Airway Radio Stations nor risk his life propping balky engines on frozen fields, or riding in the mail compartment of open biplanes. But his dedication to the safety of pilots who seek his assistance is as strong as it was half a century ago, when the age of flight tottered forward in the form of the United States Air Mail Service. And he is still the person most pilots rely on for flight planning data, for guidance over unfamiliar terrain, for steady reassurance when they get into trouble. No one who has ever been caught in a light plane in a violent thunderstorm, or become disoriented in fog over hazardous terrain, or run low of fuel in pitch darkness, can forget what it is to hear a calm, steady voice on the radio receiver leading him out of agonizing uncertainty and down to the firm green earth.

Airplane "accidents that didn't happen" seldom make headlines or heroes, but the men and women of FAA's flight service stations can live without either. Then their satisfaction comes from knowing they have helped someone get home safely, whether he be friend, a neighbor, or a stranger passing overhead in the night. Editorial Comment

The foregoing story was written on the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Airways Radio Stations under the Air Commerce Act which President Coolidge signed into law in 1926. The fact sheet carrying the story has been reprinted as furnished by the FAA

some 7 years ago. It is the History of the first 50 years under the CAA/FAA. The first station built for Air Mail Service was commissioned on Sept. 15, 1919. By the time the CAA took over the service from the U.S. Post office in 1926 some 17 stations had been established and much history written.

Note 3: The Federal Aviation Agency officially superseded the CAA under the Federal Aviation Act which became fully operational effective December 31, 1958, a few months after Ye Ed had retired from the Service. I had proposed that stations be called "Flight Assistance Stations". The name selected by FAA was "Flight Service Station". I could not quarrel with the substitution of "Service" for "Assistance" hence I compliment my former staff member Aubrey E. "Bud" Cole for the selection

## GMDSS UPDATE

Hi again, Earl. Here's an update about GMDSS from the ARA. -73...Ted

ARA FREE PRESS - DECEMBER 13, 1998 THE WEEKLY UNION NEWSPAPER OF THE SEA MARINE ELECTRONICS DIVISION - ILA, AFL-CIO TO ALL ARA MEMBERS AND INTERESTED SEAFARERS -

GMDSS UPDATE - Despite a 10-year notice to the shipping industry to come into line on GMDSS by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), industry sources say thousands of oceangoing ships are likely to miss the February 1 deadline for conversion to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Equipment industry experts estimate that at least 25 to 30 percent of the 30,000 oceangoing vessels have still to retrofit. They say it would be physically impossible to complete all the work on time. It costs

around 30,000 dollars for the cheapest vessel modification, ranging to some 45,000 dollars for superior equipment. A spokesman for SAIT Marine, a leading Belgian-based specialist in communications equipment, said many ship operators were placing their orders late in the cycle and some suppliers would be unable to cope. Ships will get exemptions on a case by case basis. GMDSS has been introduced in stages beginning on February 1, 1992, extending to all passenger ships and cargo ships of 300 gt and above on international voyages, by February next year. Non-SOLAS convention ships, have been given until February 2005 to act on GMDSS fitting. The IMO recognized earlier in 1998 that a large number of vessels might miss the deadline, and urged that ships with GMDSS should maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16. IMO's maritime safety committee will next week review progress. BT....

TO ALL MEBA MEMBERS ON BOARD AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MEBA TELEX TIMES VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5 FEBRUARY 5, 1999 THE OFFICIAL UNION NEWSLETTER FOR D1 MARINE OFFICERS AT SEA

/GMDSS FULLY OPERATIONAL/ The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) was made fully operational in the United States this week. As of Feb. 1, 1999, all cargo ships of 300 gross tons and upward, all passenger ships operating in the open sea and all small passenger vessels undertaking international voyages must be fully compliant with GMDSS regulations.

-The system uses both satellite and terrestrial digital communications systems. The major changes to distress alerting are in both the system and the

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**GMDSS Update - From Page 3**

personnel. The old system was fundamentally a ship-to-ship system with a single Morse Code operator. The GMDSS is predominantly a ship-to-shore distress alerting system, which still retains ship-to-ship capabilities. The system requires two independent means of distress alerting. Maritime safety information is provided through an international system with printed warnings from NAVTEX in territorial waters to High Frequency and Satellite Broadcasts globally. And finally, the single Morse Code operator has been replaced by at least two GMDSS operators.

--Additional survival craft equipment includes an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), Search and Rescue Radar Transponder (SART) and Survival Craft Transceivers. This equipment will help to pinpoint the location of a survival craft or ship in distress.

--These advances have the potential to improve both the notifications to the mariner of events that may cause harm, as well as notifying rescue authorities of mariners in distress.

--Most members of the MEBA are well prepared for the full introduction of the GMDSS. In 1993, the then-Director of the Calhoun MEBA Engineering School, Larry O'Toole, was a participant in the first GMDSS program offered in the United States. The class was a pilot program for school administrators and shipping company officials. It served to apprise the team of what lay just ahead. The instructor of the program was William Eney (former Director of the Radio Electronics Officers School), who then developed the GMDSS program for the Calhoun School. Eney is currently running that program at the Calhoun School.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S COLUMN**

From Secretary Boyd

It is my painful duty to report to our membership that the SOWP Edelweiss Chapter of SOWP, after an active life of over 20 years, will close activities as of 31 December 1998. Erich Walter, its Director/Coordinator, announcing his personal resignation from SOWP, has been unable to find someone willing to take over as director.

While Erich, HB9CHE, offered to explain in detail in the World Wireless Beacon his personal reasons for his resignation, your SOWP officers in consultation regarding them have decided not to provide a forum for this purpose because they are deemed to be patently outside of any interests relative to SOWP. Erich's post office address may be found in our 1998 Register, in case anyone cares to inquire in person relative to his resignation. His recently posted e-mail address is hb9che@bluewin.ch

Perhaps the most difficult, time-consuming and expensive aspect that our overseas members have to contend with is the yearly submission of dues payments. Some years ago Erich volunteered to be the "payment point" for European members, by collecting dues, consolidating and forwarding them to the SOWP secretary via one single large annual check. He has done an admirable job of this, and it is with deep regret that your secretary will, next year, begin once again to collect these dues individually. In particular, his reports as received with each check were beautifully laid-out and meticulous in their accuracy. We wish Erich 73 and look forward to his return to the fold.

I wish everyone a happy and bountiful holiday season, and a reflective final year or two of our fast-fading 20th

Century. As the 21st Century looms ever closer, I look forward to explosive growth of the Internet as it enters its inevitable wireless stage. We of the Morse wireless era can take pride that we willingly, even eagerly, contributed our bit when ours was the only game in town. Many of us are still pounding brass as the baton is passed, and will do so for many years to come as our sibling planets and their moons become stepping stones to the stars!  
73 Walt, K6DZY 2958-P

- O -

--The Jack Binns story aired and cablecast by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) was very well done. It was scheduled to be telecast during the month of February, although each local PBS affiliate chose its own day and time. Here at SOWP Hq we have a DIRECTV satellite connection from Boston, the PBS home station, and of course we recorded the segment on VHS tape for the SOWP Archive.

If we are successful in buying a master tape from PBS I will archive it and make the present copy available for loan on a first-come request basis. It is hoped that your tape players will be gentle on the tape and that the requests will be honored by a prompt use-and-forward. Much time in transit can be saved if we set-up a list of addressees, which would be honored as loan circuit blocks of 10 users instead of returning the tape to headquarters after each use. The obvious disadvantage is that, like a "chain letter," if someone neglects to forward promptly, the chain falters to a sad halt, to the dismay of the dangling chain-enders.

The Society will absorb the outgoing postage, but each user will pony the forwarding postage, which will probably be about two to three dollars. Obvi-

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S COLUMN** - From Page 4

ously, depending upon the number of requests for viewing and how promptly each transaction is handled, you might not receive the tape for upwards of a year or more!

**DUES PAYMENTS** Just over 100 overdue members have renewed for the coming one to three years, but at least that many more have yet to remit to maintain the status quo. Because we were late in mailing the December 1998 Beacon issue, the DEC/98 (or 12/98) prompts are included in this March mailing for additional reminder. Dues-unpaid by mailing time for the June 1999 issue will not receive it until we hear from you.

**THE WEB** The "Information Highway" was shortened for handy use as a title to "The Internet," but that didn't last long either. Now it's generally referred to as "The Web." We most fortunate denizens of the USA are adept at abbreviating, and perhaps well it is that we do so.

I have just heard on a TV newscast that a third of US homes are now equipped with a personal computer. I can believe it, because my XYL has just informed me that she is enrolling at the nearby Jr. College for a course in computer basics! After years of anti-computer invective in my direction, you can imagine my incredulity when she purchased a sewing machine that is PC-controlled! and of course, there isn't room on this keyboard for four hands... that resolves to a two-computer home from now on. Samuel F. B. Morse had, surely, no idea what his invention with its soulful "dit-dah software" would beget.

**SECRETARIAL CORRESPONDENCE** As some of you know all too well, I am far behind in reply to your very welcome letters. Letters, both

e-mail and USPS, arrive every day, and each deserves reply. Yet the day is limited to a total of about eight hours on the keyboard, since other household and yardhold duties are equally demanding. My 1998 resolution to be back "on the air" (as K6DZY) by December went the way of most of my 'druthers. I am at a loss to understand how Bill Breniman was able to handle this station in the days before PC's!

Fifteen "dead end" Beacons have been returned since 1 Jan. 1999, undelivered due to "addressee unknown," "moved, left no fwdg address," and returned with no explanation. Statistics have a way of forecasting more when each subsequent Beacon is published. If the member has a Ham Callsign, we keep checking for a possible clue to a live address. Otherwise, the stack gets higher and higher. Those returned with a new address indicated are resent. Each USA return costs SOWP 55 cents, and re-mailing costs another 55. Canadian and overseas returns cost double and triple those figures. Thus, you can imagine how eagerly a personal change-of-address (COA) is received here from those who have precluded the above problem. The same day -yes, even the same hour- the new address is received, it is inserted into the computer database!

**THE LONG NIGHT** Have you compared the Int'l Morse character set to the ASCII 128-character set? Remember when you first heard Morse sent at machine-speed? Beyond the capacity of the human ear to resolve characters (75wpm x 5 charac/words = 375 char/min) the two resolve similarly to hash. I see ASCII as simply an extension of Morse - anyone agree? In my Navy experience I was exposed briefly to an experimental high-speed Morse-translation receiver-to-teleprinter set-up at 100wpm. It worked! But only under near-perfect receiving conditions. Bau-

dot code popularity interrupted those experiments.

Morse is composed of variable-length characters. ASCII, Baudot, BCD, EBCDIC, Gray, Hollerith, NBCH and many others are of fixed length. While machinery has been devised to react to variable-length characters, fixed-length types are far more suitable for use at higher speeds. In ASCII, for instance, despite its regularity, timing is as critical as was the old original Morse telegraph code.

The old-Morse "C" was dit space dit dit. "R" was dit dit space dit (or was it the other way around? Age hath its due reward!). Thus, the timing (non-sound) had to be factored in the operator's mind. International Morse eliminated the timing factor, except for the relationship of one dab equals three dits, and the spacing between words. In ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) "A" = 100001. It is a 7-bit code. A decimal "1" is "on" (you might say "dash," or electric circuit closed). A "0" is "off" (electrical contact open). Of course, this could be represented by 1 = 1-volt-plus across an open terminal set, and 0 = 1-volt-minus across the terminals. In practice the machine (your computer chip) interprets 0-volt as the equivalent of negative voltage because a "clock signal" is overlaid at a fixed rate. Thus, the machine does the timing that the human mind once handled --and timing still exists as a factor. But you already know all this, right?

Keep the faith! CW will not go softly into the long, dark night! Walt. 2958-P  
K6DZY@netdex.com

## Corrections/Additions to THE WIRELESS REGISTER - 1998

Changes are given on a page-by-page basis so they can be marked into your personal copy.

page 5 - change telephone number, ARNOLD, Lloyd L. 0727-SGP, 651 565-4715

- correct telephone number, ATYEO, Leonard G. 4265-V, 03. 9 848-3580

page 8 - add wife, change call, change phone number, CALLAWAY Jr, Edgar 4857-M Ed/Jan N4II 561 488-1451

page 11 - change address, D'EAU CLAIRE, Ron, AC6Y, 11955 SW Center Street, #25, Beaverton, OR 97005

page 13 - change address, FUHR, Don 3781-M W8LJ 6800 McVey Blvd, Columbus, OH 43235

- Adolph "be" Galonski, KG9LO SOWP 2673-M 1103 5th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024

page 18 - change address, KENNEDY, David D. 3642-V 715 Mountain View Rd., King, NC 27021

page 22 - change call, MEWHORTER, William J. 5189-V Bill/Anne N5PBY to N5QB

page 26 - change telephone and address POWERS, Aaron B. 2953-P, 206 870-2061, 815 South 216th, Des Moines, WA 98198

page 27 - change address ROTH, Milton C. 4090-P 4920 Viceroy Ct., Apt. 227, Cape Coral, FL 33904

page 29 - change address SLATER, Reuben W. 1196-P 3018 Lake Hill Dr., Orange, CA 92867-1910

page 31 - change address TREGGER, Henry J. 2553-SGP, 908 233-0963, 2045

Jersey Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

page 39 - change call WB4AWH to N4II, CALLAWAY Jr, Edgar Ed/Jan

page 40 - change call N5PBY to N5QB, MEWHORTER, William J.

- change address AC6Y D'EAU CLAIRE, Ron, 11955 SW Center Street, #25, Beaverton, OR 97005

page 46 - reactivate membership KG9LO GALONSKI, Adolph "be" 2673-M. 1103 5th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024

page 48 - Callaway Jr, Edgar 4857-M N4II jan0@adelphia.net

page 49 - Dole, Ronald D. Jr. 5567-M KA1EFO ka1efo@qsl.net Dole, Ronald D. Jr. 5567-M KA1EFO <http://www.qsl.net/ka1efo/index.htm>

- Holl, Mike 4992-M NT7G holl@az.com

- Jefferson, C. Paul 5606-TA KB2RKW cpjeff@together.net

- Kennedy, David D. 3642-V davekenedy@juno.com

page 50 - Peterson, Jack B. 0376-V W7YJ jbp15@bendnet.com

- Reck, Samuel 5498-TA N4PS n4ps@juno.com Reck, Samuel 5498-TA N4PS n4ps@bellsouth.net

page 51 - Snow, William E. 4186-V W6UUC w6uuc@aol.com - Wells, Milbert 3586-V W5JNK ootc@ticnet.com.

## CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

**Before You Go** - Please send

a note to:

SOWP HQ

P.O. BOX 86

Geyserville, CA 95441-0086

## AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING

by Urbano Cavina

SOWP 4774-M, I4YTE

Lizabeth was a lovely green eyed girl with raven hair with whom I was enjoying a chat. We had been introduced a few moments before, when, unexpectedly she had accepted my invitation to dance.

After a few dances we sat by ourselves at a table not far from her girl friends. With eyes moist with emotion, we were putting out feelers to get to know each other better. We were speaking in a mixture of Italian and Spanish, amused by the respective pronunciations and this was exciting us yet more.

"Good evening 'MARCONI', enjoy yourself". That was the friendly greeting with which the Chief Officer addressed me as he passed our table, dancing a lively South American samba with his blonde companion. I reciprocated, almost irritated by his presence, for it reminded me that within a couple of hours we should be sailing, and that was the last thing I wanted at that moment.

"Are you a 'MARICONI'?" was what I heard from Lizabeth in a surprised tone. "Claro que si" (for sure I am) I answered, emphasising the frequent use that Spanish do of that phrase. Misled by her pleasant accent, with a certain pride mixed with gentle irony, I remarked "yes I'm MARICONI of a large Italian ship". After that moment I noticed a certain cooling-off towards me. In a short time our conversation died and Lizabeth left me and went back to her girlfriends. Sniggering they went away leaving me rather disconcerted. I abandoned the dance and sadly returned on board, mumbling, "I can't

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## AN UNFORTUNATE MIS-UNDERSTANDING- From Page 6

understand how women think".

Only later, when the ship had sailed, I realised the mistake caused by the glorious appellation "MARCONI" of which I was so proud, and so grotesquely pronounced by Lizabeth. I had misunderstood that the meaning in Spanish of "MARICON" is the word of "GAY"!

## BOOK LIST

By Charles P. Krause

SOWP 1412-V, N7ESJ

(continued from The **World Wireless Beacon** December 1998, page 13)

References. Birgitta Gustafson's book list which appeared in WWB, June/July 1998 starting on page 6. Some additions to her list which are real goodies!

**Harding, Stephen**, *Great Liners at War* - Chronicles the military adventures of the world's great liners, the largest and most famous passenger ships such as the America, Lusitania, Vaterland, Normandie Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

**Hirschfeld, Wolfgang**, *The Story of a U-Boat NCO 1940-1945*.

**Hinsley, F.H. and Stripp, Alan**, *Codebreakers - The Inside Story of Bletchley Park*

**Kahn, David**, *Seizing the Enigma - The Rush to Break the U-Boat Codes ... Hitler's Spies ... Kahn on Codes ... The Codebreakers*.

**Leaser, James**, *Boarding Party! The Last Action of the Calcutta Light Horse* - This action curtailed the activities of the U-Boats in the Indian

Ocean.

**Lavin, Donald**, *Ultra goes to War ... The American Magic, Codes, Ciphers and the Defeat of Japan*.

**Milner, Marc**, *The U-Boat Hunters - The Royal Canadian Navy and the offensive against Germany's submarines*.

**Prado, J.** *Combined Fleet Decoded - The History of American Signals Intelligence against the Japanese*.

**Rohwer, Jurgen**, 1) Articles on Radio Communication Intelligence in the Battle of the Atlantic, 2) Comparative Analysis of Allied and Axis Radio Intelligence in the Battle of the Atlantic in the Proceedings of the 13th Military History Symposium USAF Academy 1988 pp 77-108, 3) Critical Convoy Battles of March 1943, Ian Allan, London 1977. 4) Chronology of the War at Sea, Vol.1, 1939-1942, Ian Allan, London 1972.

**Runyon, Timothy J and Ian M. Copes**, eds., *To Die Gallantly; The battle of the Atlantic*.

**Shillen, Hugh**, *Spies of the Airways - A History of the Y sections in the Second World War*.

**Spector, R. H.**, *Listening to the Enemy* - Key documents in the Role of communications intelligence in the war with Japan.

**Syrette, David**, *The Defeat of the German U-Boats*.

**Smith, Peter**, *Arctic Victory* - The story of Convoy PQ18.

**Sterling, George E.**, *Spies Use Radio* - The Radio intelligence Division in World War 2. The Story of the Radio Intelligence Division, Engineering Department of the Federal Communications Commission. Antique Wireless Association/Volume 5, 1990.

**Stevens, David**, *U-Boat Far from*

*Home* - The German U-Boat offensive against Australia.

**Tarrant, V.E.**, *The Last Year of the Kriegsmarine, May 1944 to May 1945*.

**Time-Life**, eds. *Electronic Spies. The New Face of War*.

*Traffic Analysis (Radiotelegraph)*, Fundamentals of Department of the Airforce. AFM100-80

*U-Boat Commanders Handbook* by the High Command of the German Navy.

**Vance, Jordan**, *WOLF* - U-Boat commanders in World War 2.

**Werner, Herbert A.**, *Iron Coffins* - A personal account of German U-Boat battles of World War 2.

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## Member Correspondence

Dear Sir:

Thank you for a nice newsletter I read cover to cover. Your spot "Dues Time" reminded me to send in my dues. I also want to thank you for the nice letter regarding CW on armed forces day.

I wrote several letters one of which I sent to the chief of Navy MARS, who runs the AFD program. No answer received so am in hopes CW will be on the program. Also today's mail from the chief, giving me congrats for 35 years in Navy MARS.

Actually all my years as net control for the many CW MARS nets ended with the CW shut down. I was able to use RATT mechanical and later digital until the packet system was employed so now I stand as a warm body when need in an emergency. The war years

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**Member Correspondence -**

From Page 7

ruined my ears so SSB is really Donald Duck and never used voice. So long live CW on the ham bands.

Edward Patacchiola 3225-P W1MCG

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Exec. Sec. Waldo T. Boyd

Dear OM:

Just received the December issue (Vol. 10 No 4) of the "World Wireless Beacon" yesterday and saw that my dues are due so here is my check for \$15.00.

Trust that this will insure that I continue to receive the "Beacon." As you can see from the card enclosed, I am proud of my membership in SOWP. I have all the original "Sparks Journals" that Bill B. put out and every non and then I leaf through them.

It's sad to see what technology has done to the men that served on the world's ships as R/Os. I still feel that a dedicated man aboard is worth all the technology that they can think up, and more. All the technical gadgets they can think up can't take the place of a thinking person. The shipper's worship of the almighty \$ will back-fire some day.

Oh well, take care of yourself and shall send you another check next year if I'm still here.

Vy 73,

William Eckels - W8ZNH - 3675-V

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Dear Mr. Boyd:

I'm sorry that I'm late with the dues for 1999. I hope to be more punctual in the future.

I would also like to say that I enjoyed Mr. Jack Kelleher's article in the December 1998 Beacon. As a retired CAA/FAA Communicator and Air Traffic Controller, I was there while the agency grew up. Mr. Kelleher preceded me by a number of years but I'm sure that I crossed the path of some of his cohorts. I started my CAA/FAA career in Alaska and the system was a number of years behind what was available on the Outside. CW was the main method of point-to-point communication. We did have HF Voice communications but due to atmospheric conditions they were not completely reliable. Therefore CW was our main method of communications.

At this time 'air traffic control' was in its growing period and especially in Alaska. But I wouldn't trade a minute of it for any other period. We may have been short on the latest methods but the system did one hell of a job.

I'm looking forward to the next issue on the subject and if Mr Kelleher does as good a job as he just did, my appetite could be whetted again to correspond.

To end, I'd also like to mention to any EX-CAA/FAA members that there is an organization called "Society of Airway Pioneers" which is a group of the OLD CAA/FAA fellows; and many of them are a lot older than I am. God Bless.

Waiter J. Hamilton 5146-V

P.S. My E-Mail address is: LITTLE\_KAHONNA@prodigy.net This is for any CAA/FAA person who would like the address for SOAP.

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Dear Waldo:

A very Happy New Year to you! Enclosed are my 1999 dues. I am now retired since Dec. 5, 1995 after leaving my last ship, the SS Matsonia in Long Beach, CA where I was the relief MREO. I am still convinced as ever, that an unwise decision was made by the U.S. government to permit the release of the Radio Officer duties to no-one in particular, and especially to the bridge personnel. The bridge personnel have no time in emergencies to handle the radio communications work, let alone their own duties... as observed by my familiarity with the bridge as an AB helmsman and a Radio Officer over a 61 year period.

Arne F. Hanson 4589-V, KA2MLB

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Sir:

I enjoyed the latest "World Wireless Beacon" especially the article by Tom Dixon. I wish I had kept my SWL logs from 9KK and A9M for I used to monitor them regularly when I lived in Dhahran. There was always some excitement in the Gulf such as the time HZY put his traffic tape in backwards! (I assume it was backwards because the morse was not recognizable).

For the information of Hank Brown regarding the "Berne List", it has for many years been published in Geneva by the ITU. It is "List V" or "List of Ship Stations". The latest copy I have is the 16th Edition dated January 1976. I would be happy to provide information from this document to anyone interested.

73

John Hudelson, SOWP 5607-M, KSDL  
jhudelson@ieee.org

## 1998 SOWP "QSO" PARTY ROUNDUP

Dear Roundup Participant,

Many thanks to all of you for your kind words - I'll be sending your comments on to Jack Kelleher. Some of your comments will probably appear in the upcoming Beacon. As a log checker, I spent most of my time checking bonus points. Some of you will notice a change in your overall score because of readjustment of bonus points.

Overall, participation was up some this year along with propagation improvement. You are all to be congratulated on your thoughtful exchange with each other. Everyone took the time to be courteous and wish each other "happy holidays".

Coming back to the bonus points again, some of you ignored the bonus points and some of you showed points I couldn't justify. A few words on the high scorers - you guys and gals did a beautiful job on your logs - I had very few changes to make.

On the operational side again; one of you indicated that you were using a WW2 Vibroplex. I too, used a WW2 Vibroplex. I've often wondered how many operators were using bugs, keyers and keyboards. Regardless, you all sounded like professionals. I'm looking forward to the next roundup.

73

John Swafford, 783-V

W4HU

### RESULTS ANNUAL SOWP INTERNATIONAL QSO RUNDUP DEC. 10-12, 1998

PTS	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CALL	CITY STATE/ COUNTRY	SERIAL #
262(172+90)	Del	Clouser	W8KJP	Orlando FL	4922
251(164+87)	Esther	Frost	KA4IFF	Lakeland FL	3375
216(144+72)	George	Lucchi	W6NVN	Phoenix AZ	1704
211(79+132)	Glenn	Swiderski	W7GS	Buffalo WY	5531
211(139+72)	Bill D	Carroll	AC5BG	No. Little Rock AR	5161
205(136+69)	Wilbur	Otten	N7WO	Vancouver WA	4929
173(119+54)	Bud	Hall	K2LP	Eastham MA	3117
151(79+72)	Robert	Shrader	W6BNB	Sebastopol CA	157
147(102+45)	Walter A	Read	W6ASH	Los Altos CA	5059
145(97+48)	Christopher	Wincey	N1BKR	Morris PA	3725
139(97+42)	John F	Lally	W1HDC	Garland ME	3043
136(100+36)	Harry A	Albright	W4ZCT	Valkaria FL	2613

(continued - next page)

## SOWP QSO ROUNDUP - From Page 9

<u>PTS</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>CITY STATE/ COUNTRY</u>	<u>SERIAL #</u>
121(88+33)	Earl	Korf	K2IC	Lincroft NJ	613
120(87+33)	Ben	Russell	N6SL	Madisonville LA	1853
116(77+39)	Mort	Brewer	W6JU	Los Osos CA	537
113(83+30)	John J.	Kelleher	W4ZC	Silver Sprin MD	2581
110(77+33)	K.H.	Righter	K7UQH	Bellingham WA	3562
102(72+30)	Hans	Buehler	HB9XJ	8050 Zurich Switz	3028
095(68+27)	Robert	Hickman	AA5WE	Copperas Cove TX	4968
092(68+24)	Robert D	Elder	KA2ZNE	Liverpool NY	4587
089(68+21)	Charles E	Spencer	W8PQO	Fennville MI	4058
089(65+24)	Robert V	McGraw	W2LYH	Riverhead NY	2356
087(60+27)	Mike	Holl	NT7G	Bellingham WA	4992
082(61+21)	Marion J	Henson	W6NKR	Sacramento CA	3708
074(56+18)	Joshua J	Brehm	AE2L	Rose Hill NC	3109
072(54+18)	Alex	Newbold	W6MMG	Belmont CA	2407
070(55+15)	John M	Vasicak	W9ZEN	Oglesby IL	1140
064(49+15)	Hilary F	Johnson	K1HGK	Nashua NH	5523
063(45+18)	Philip E	Bathey	W3FZV	Patagonia AZ	5505
061(40+21)	Borge	Haagensen	VE7VB	Victoria, BC Canada	664
058(46+12)	Milt	Stymiest	KJ1T	Stow MA	4517
058(46+12)	R. Dean	Sever	W8IM	Leesburg FL	3446
055(43+12)	Joe	Amicarella	W7IZE	Seaside OR	4187
054(48+06)	John	McKinney	W0AP	Dannebrog NE	1001
054(36+18)	Gordon J	Tucker	W7FLF	Jefferson OR	3813
053(46+15)	Marvin	Gustafson	KA7MGM	Santa Maria CA	4942
051(42+09)	Edmond L	Bouton Jr	K3CJQ	Laurel MD	1292
050(35+15)	Joe	Flipse	PA3GNO	NL 4334 AR Middel- burg Netherlands	3942
046(40+06)	Charles W	Edwards	W2IQX	Waldwick NJ	4114

(continuet next page)

## SOWP QSA ROUNDUP - From Page 10

<u>PTS</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>CITY STATE/ COUNTRY</u>	<u>SERIAL #</u>
045(42+03)	John	Yuricek	W3MAM	Brackenridge PA	753
040(40+00)	Ted	Phelps	W8TP	Columbus OH	881
039(36+03)	John H	Swafford	W4HU	Arlington VA	783
039(33+06)	D.J.	Meyer	KB9W	Amery WI	5594
038(38+00)	William	Werner	W3FYK	Bethlehem PA	4528
036(27+09)	Carlo	Marsano	K4EI	Ponce Inlet FL	230
033(24+09)	Gareth	Linder	W1ACL	Braintree MA	4031
027(24+03)	Ed	McCarthy	W1YT	Lempster NH	3035
023(20+03)	Harlow F	Brown	W0SDX	Grand Jet CO	4991
021(18+03)	Russell	Schmid	K2LL	Neptune NJ	4488
018(18+00)	Charles P	Baker	W2KTF	Mellmore NY	4416
017(17+00)	Eugene W.	Klein	W4GC	Naples FL	4516
015(15+00)	John B	Beach	W2LN	San Antonio TX	2279
014(14+00)	William G	Rennison	G3BOK	Kirton - Ipswich Suffolk Ip100pa	4534
012(12+00)	Bertil	Persson	SM6AUM	305 95 Halmstad Sweden	4128
012(12+00)	Kyle E	Thompson	W6BNJ	Morgan Hill CA	908
012(12+00)	Ted	Touw	N4AKD	St Simons Is GA	4191
007(07+00)	Edward M	Hansell	W0ODD	Wichita KS	3014
005(05+00)	Jens Henrik	Nohns	OZ1CAR	DK-7441 Bording Denmark	4084
005(05+00)	Patrick	O'Brien	K8LEN	Pekin IN	1305
005(05+00)	William W	Skinner	W8ROV	Detroit MI	4283

**1998 SOWP ROUNDUP COMMITTEE**

Ted Phelps 881 - W8TP

Jack Kelleher 2581 - W4ZC

John Swafford 783 - W4HU

**SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR YEAR 1998**

**RECEIPTS:**

Dues/Donations .....	\$11,244.00	
Interest Earned .....	821.31	
CA Tax Board Refund .....	144.97	
Legacy of Jack L. Sykes 2431-SGP .....	822.95	
-----Total Receipts .....	\$13,033.23	
<b>On Hand 12/31/97 .....</b>	<b>24,250.11</b>	<b>\$24,250.11</b>
----- <b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$37,283.34</b>	<b>\$37,283.34</b>

**EXPENDITURES:**

Headquarters Expense .....	1,786.58	
Publications Costs .....	5,200.81	
Rent .....	4,800.00	
-----Total Expenditures .....	\$11,787.39	11,787.39
-----On Hand 12/31/98 .....	\$25,495.95	25,495.95
		-----\$ 1,245.84 Gain

/s/ Lorin G. DeMerritt Treasurer

**Member Correspondence**

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Enclosing my check for \$30.00 for two more years dues to SOWP.

My memory fades a bit with the mass of correspondence which is generated here on maritime historical matters, but I'll write again with a renewed request for some assistance.

I'm enclosing a simple list of steamship names with call signals, which of course was only a fragment of the total number of ships on the Pacific Coast in the hey-day of the coastwise trade. MY guess is this list is dated somewhere in the 1920's.

I am working with a few others, but not many, on a major project of trying to compile as complete a history of the coastwise lumber ship trade as can be done at this late year in the century. I note in one of your latest issues that one of your members Earl Thoms whom I did not know had sailed in coastwise ships. This got me to thinking there may be a few other old hands in your membership, on the Coast, who might have sailed in steamships when proper marine radios were still used and nightly reporting was a regular routine, with positions and ETAs being sent to owners. To my knowledge, little or nothing has been written in detail about the use of radio on coastwise

lumber ships, though I have learned a little about the implementation of radio on such ships carrying more than 50 passengers after 1912. The daily practice and even a description of what kind of radio was common to the ships is the missing link in this history.

If any of your members are old steamship hands, I'd appreciate hearing from anybody at his convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Huycke 5341-TA

**MISC. STEAM SCHOONERS**

- SS Multnomah ..... WMA
- SS Willamette..... WSW
- SS Klamath (W)..... WSX
- SS Wapama ..... WMG
- SS Yosemite ..... WQY
- SS Celilo ..... WMF
- SS Wahkeena ..... WMS
- SS St. Helens ..... WNY\*
- SS Centralia ..... WSN
- SS Coronado ..... WSO
- SS Norwood ..... WSG
- SS Northland ..... WGJ
- SS Nome City ..... WMC
- SS Idaho ..... WOO
- SS Redondo ..... \*WBM
- SS Vanguard ..... WNZ
- SS Greenwood ..... WLL
- SS Starwood ..... KDH
- SS Alliance ..... —
- SS Phyllis ..... KEA
- SS San Ramon ..... WNW
- SS Florence Olsen ..... WPK

(continued - next page)

## Member Correspondence

From Page 12

SS J.B. Stetson ..... WVUE  
 SS Horace Baxter ..... WOF  
 SS Fred Baxter..... WOG  
 SS Fort Bragg ..... WST  
 SS Carlos ..... WNC  
 SS Fran. H.Leggett ... (W)WNG  
 SS Geo. W. Fenwick.....  
 SS General Hubbard..... WMT  
 SS Johanna Smith..... WHZ  
 SS C.A.Smith ..... WEL  
 SS Nann Smith ..... BO WBO  
 SS Adeline Smith ..... WHS  
 SS Noyo ..... \*WRJ  
 SS Aroline ..... \*WRJ  
 SS Falcon ..... \*WRF  
 SS Fifield ..... \*WRF  
 SS Navajo ..... WNJ  
 SS Portland ..... P3 WNV  
 SS Paraiso ..... WRJ  
 SS Riverside ..... \*WBM  
 SS Speedwell ..... WQS  
 SS Stanley Dollar ..... \*WSD  
 SS Redwood ..... \*WSD  
 SS Silverado ..... WRC  
 SS El Dorado ..... KMOI  
 SS Francis Hanify..... KRA  
 SS Lake Francis ..... KTAO  
 SS Tiger ..... KIT

Note (\*) Similar call signs. Ships sold and name changed but not call letters. For instance, the SS Aroline name changed to the SS Noyo and then to SS Admiral Goodrich. Calls all were WRJ.

Waldo,

I was having trouble sleeping the other morning early. As I was lying there my mind (?) came across KPH. Some random thoughts about KPH. I was a military Radioman first (43 to 59). Came to the RCA Station in the spring of 1959 to work in the point-to-point department. They were in the same building with KPH, but of course, KPH was hidden away in a back corner of the building, while RS (pt to pt) had the whole upper floor of the building. I did the equipment maintenance for both of them for a few years. That was in the days of the mechanical printers, with a lot of paper. Everything in KPH was covered with 'chad.' Whenever I had a KPH receiver on the bench, the first thing that had to be done was a thorough vacuuming. FG (Frank Geisel) was the manager in those days and insisted on having every band being monitored on a speaker. Imagine this room with 5 or 6 bands on speakers, mechanical printers and perforators clanking away - it was a cacaphony! Every now and then FG's voice would come booming out of his office, "So & so is calling us on 12 or 16 or 8 or whatever. He could pick a KPH out of any kind of noise! When I went to RS they had an opening at KPH but I was told KPH would probably be shut down in a matter of months, so I opted for RS. Of course satellites, etc. came along and RS was shut down in the 70s, but KPH was still going strong. When RS went QRT I left for awhile, but ended up back at KPH. I loved it! I had always wanted to go to sea in the Merchants, but never made it. My seetime was all US Navy. So being an Op at KPH was the next best thing. We had some terrific Operators there. In my mind the best of all was WM (Bill Meloney), smooth & effortless, always looked like he was just loafing along. We shared rides to work and often on the way home I would say

"Boy, I handled 105 messages today, how did you do?" "Oh," he would say, "140 or so." Another was AH (Arnold Hanson) who could copy messages that I couldn't even hear. We had a very low noise level, so a signal under that was really weak, but it didn't seem to matter to Arnold - telepathic I guess. Then there were the Shipboard Operators. Maybe it was just me, but some ethnicity seemed apparent. The Philipinos seemed to have a propensity for dots. A 5 could be 8 or 10 dots, a 6 might have 7 or 8, etc. The Japanese were meticulous - everything had to be letter-perfect. The Greeks were generally good & we made many bucks at Easter. Boy, those 'Chrona Polla' messages would really stack up. The Russians had some real speed demons - They would have a 'Mothership' with their smaller fishing vessels, who had to send a report to the U.S. on how many pounds of each fish they caught & processed. These messages were mostly numbers, but some of those guys could really keep you hopping to keep up.

Oh for the days when the Traffic List would end and we would 'peel 'em off' and have QRY lists over 20. Sometimes you couldn't finish up your QRYs' before the next List went out.

Later they got computerized, FG was gone so no speakers. It was eerie walking down the hall to the Operating Room. That deadly silence! I never did get used to that!

I'm very grateful I at least got a few years in there before the end. I went out to the Station on that last day. Not a happy one! The building still belongs to MCI and the hope is they will turn it all over to the Point Reyes National Seashore. If so, the Park people are hoping to turn it into a Wireless Museum. With that in mind

(continued next page)

## Member Correspondence - From Page 13

they have compiled a file with pictures, etc. and have had a couple of us locals identify as many people in them as we can. Lets hope that comes to pass.

Finally, on Field Day 1999, the local Ham Club (WMARS) will again be operating from the old Marconi Site at Marshall, Ca. Our Call will probably be W6RSI, and this year I will see what can be done about making up some QSL Cards for those that might be interested. They, of course, would be on an answering basis. We would send one in reply to received cards. I will be in touch on this as things firm-up.

73,

Dick Flint 1391-V K6JQQ

Earl...

A "must" item for March Beacon.  
-Walt.

## Morse code officially goes out of use at sea (AP, 31 Jan 1999)

LONDON - SOS. Morse code officially goes out of use Monday for most ships in distress at sea. The International Maritime Organization set Feb. 1 as its target date to replace dots and dashes with a satellite system the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System that can pinpoint the location of a ship signaling for help. The new system is mandatory for all international freighters over 300 gross tons, all passenger vessels and self-propelled oil drilling units. Coastal freighters, most fishing boats and pleasure craft are exempt.

Another remark or two won't hurt...  
Walt.

Thought I might see some comments ref the official demise of Morse as the ship-to-shore emergency monitoring system. Would have started digging my six foot hole but the ground is too damned hard here in northern PA. Sam F.B. gave his first public demonstration of the electric telegraph 1/6/1838. Long live the "ditty chasers" Monk Delmotte

Re Hank Brown's memo to you in the Dec 98 WWB;

The time-tick station we used in WWII was NSS WashDC

There will be a world-wide event marking the closing of CW. See: <http://homepages.enterprise.net/dbarlow/>

As ships U.S. and Foreign are rapidly converting over to GMDSS they are throwing the Berne listings over the side and Hank should be able to catch a set before it hits the water. (I sent Hank a letter)

73 de Ray Maurstad W3HUV 2964-V

## Book Report Information

Provided By Bill Jackson

SOWP 3612-V, W6HDP

Dir. S.W. Chapter

(By George McGinnis, Capt, USN, Ret.) Reprinted from the Cryptolog

Published by Navy Cryptologic Ass'n.

## THUNDER BELOW

This is a WW2 story of the U. S. S. Barb, a Navy submarine and will introduce you to a great Commanding officer and how he inspired the men of

his ship. The book covers WW2 patrol number eight through 12 from April 1944 to 7 August 1945 of the U.S.S. Barb. Lieutenant Commander E.B. Fluckey, later Commander, retiring as Rear Admiral was the Commanding Officer of the Barb. The patrols started in the Kurile islands, where icebergs were often seen, working their way to areas between Southern Japan and Taiwan.

Every patrol showed the high quality of leadership, intelligence, daring and determination of Fluckey. His operation of Barb more closely resembled that of a destroyer. As an example, during his first patrol, a Japanese merchant ship was sunk in frigid weather. He brought the Barb into the wreckage and found one sailor still clinging to life. The man was brought aboard, revived and after realizing how lucky he was to be rescued by the Barb became a valuable source of intelligence and a willing worker aboard the boat, often helping to load torpedoes. He provided information on ports, ship routes and mine fields and as a result he was made an honorary torpedoeman. His knowledge of mine fields probably saved Barb from destruction.

The Fleet Radio Unit in Hawaii get credit for supplying considerable Japanese convoy information that contributed to Barb's success. There is one humorous incident involving President Roosevelt who was visiting in Hawaii. The President wanted to take some home movies of The U.S.S. Barb arriving in port. Fluckey was obliged to approach the dock, all flags unfurled at high speed to make a dramatic scene for the President to record on film. The President was not satisfied with the first few attempts and had him repeat the process. Finally, Admiral Fluckey approached the dock at full

(continued on page 16)

**SILENT KEYS**

With Deep Regret, we report the passing of the following SOWP members as they join our Chapter Eternal. We send our sincere sympathies to those they held dear.

**COOK**, Kendall E. 2359-P W7IOI, Story, WY. Feb. 12, 1999. No details. Reported on SOWP West Net Feb. 18, 1999

**CURRAN**, John A. 'Al' 1268-P W1AN, Palmetto, FL. Aug. 8, 1998, age 87. He was a radio officer in the U.S. Merchant Marines and served in the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. Reported by Dan Courtney 1156-P, W0ABO and in QST, Jan. 1999.

**CUSHING**, Edward W. "Ed". Sr. 2996-P W1SHW, Bristol, CT. Aug. 5, 1998, age 90. Served as radio officer aboard Nantucket Lightship, then at Buckstown, PA airfield under CAA/FAA. Reported by wife Jenny Cushing.

**FISCHER**, Alphonse D. 5524-V KC4RIB, Marietta, GA. No date or details. Reported in QST, Dec. 1998

**FORD**, Fred L. 4842-P W5AVF, Vicksburg, MS. No date or details. Reported in QST, Feb. 1999

**HEINLREIN**, Oscar A. 755-P W7BIF, Bouldrer City, NV. No date or details. Reported in Spark Gap Times, Jan. 1999

**KLEPPER**, Irving C. 1957-P W3HGD, Severna Park, MD. Aug. 1, 1998, age 78 of cancer. Served as a radio frequency engineer during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Served with Seventh Army in Europe and with Army Section Signal Military Assistance Advisory Group in Taiwan. Reported by Larry Briggs 481-P W3MSN and in QST, Jan. 1999.

**McMULLIN**, Everett K. 5515-TA W6DSY, Prescott, AZ. No date or

details. Reported in QST, Mar. 1999

**MELBERTT**, Llewellyn H. 1568-SGP W1FSH, Manchester, CT. about Nov. 6, 1998 of cancer of spine, age 92, FS 1923 USS Pennsylvania/NCE. Reported by Ben Russell 1853-V and in QST, Mar. 1999

**PERRY**, George Ross, 4390-V, VE7EW, Sidney, BC, Canada. No date or details. Reported in QST, Dec. 1998

**PRIEBE**, Robert E. 1597-SGP, W7BY, Sun City, AZ. No date or details. Reported in QST, Mar. 1999

**RICHTER**, Erich, Jr., 5367-TA, W1UWV, West Cornwall, CT. No date or details. Reported in QST, Feb. 1999

**ROSEBURY**, Fred 1570-SGP KA1GEN, Framingham, MA, Feb. 20, 1999, age 92 of complications from a hip fracture. Worked at Gernsback Brothers Radio Factory in New York and attended the Marconi School for commercial radio operators. Earned radio telegrapher's license in 1919, served on seven different ships during a 10 year career. Invented certain top secret radar devices during World War II. Wrote the "Handbook of Electro Tubes and Vacuum Techniques." Reported by Waldo Boyd 2958-P K6DZY.

**SCHROETER**, Richard G. 4568-P W6CKU, Woodland Hills, CA. No date or details. Reported in QST, Jan. 1999

**SEITER**, Theodore J. 2671-P W2FJH, Sag Harbor, NY. No date or details. Reported in QST, Mar. 1999

**SIMMS**, Preston W. 2991-P W5RM, Santa Fe, NM, Jan. 4, 1999, age 83. Commissioned 2nd Lt. in the United States Army Signal Corps Reserve in 1936, called to active duty in 1941. He was appointed Lt. Col. in 1943 while a communications officer in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. He was

responsible for all radio communications from the Allied Forces Headquarters to the War Department in Washington, all other theaters of operation in the world, and all subordinate field units within the Mediterranean Theater. After the war, Col. Simms worked for Aeronautical Radio, Inc., the communications coordination organization then owned by the certified U.S. air carriers. He helped pioneer the airline radio equipment standardization program and coordinated the installation of airline communication radio stations in major cities all over the world. Reported by William Jackson 3612-V W6HDP.

**THOMS**, Earl H. 1308-SGP W7DJ, Seattle, WA. No date or details. Reported in QST, Feb. 1999

**ZOBEL**, Jerome F. 0788-SGP W6ARA, Cupertino, CA. Jan. 25, 1999 age 93. Reported by Louise Zobel

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**Silent Key Reporting**

Please send reports to SOWP Exec. Sec'y Waldo T. Boyd., P.O. Box 86, Geyserville, CA 95441-0086. If available, include date, age of deceased and cause of passing.

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**Ruth Marie Breniman SK:**

Ruth Marie Breniman, 91, for 67 years the beloved wife of William A. Breniman, founder of The Society of Wireless Pioneers, entered into rest 18 March 1999 in Fremont, California. The Board of Directors and Officers of the Society have requested the secretary to make a memorial donation in her name to The American Cancer Society. Cards and letters of condolence may be addressed to Bill in care of the secretary, P O Box 86, Geyserville, CA 95441.

**Book Report Information** - From Page 14

Fluckey approached the dock at full speed, then reversed engines full, and in effect skidded to the dock, narrowly avoiding a collision with a nearby ship. Admiral Lockwood, Commander Submarines Pacific, had ordered the performance and was a bit shaken by the last event. I am sure both were glad when Roosevelt called it quits.

Barb was involved in the sinking of several Japanese ships that were carrying British, mostly Australian POW's to Japan. These were survivors of construction of the railroad in Burma, depicted in the movie, "Bridge on The River Kwai." Many survivors were rescued and brought aboard but many died before they could be rescued. Those located were near death and were grateful for their rescue and safe

return home.

Commander Fluckey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and four Navy Crosses for his achievements. His Medal of Honor was presented by then Secretary of the Navy Forrestal, standing in for the President who was in poor health. This honor usually takes place at the White House.

Please begin reading this book on page 228, near the bottom of the page and continue through page 230. Now back to page 3 and continue reading. (Steven Spielberg's DreamWorksFilms has the film rights).

The book, Thunder Below, can be obtained from E. B. Fluckey at: 1016 Sandpiper Ln., Annapolis, MD. 21403, Phone (410) 263-6533. Price \$30.00, Paperback \$20.00

**"WORKING A MARITIME LAND-BASED MOBILE" (in the late 1950's)**

By: Brian Webb

SOWP 4119-M, ZL2ARJ ex ZLB

"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" came the cry on 2182 on this day. The operator identified his craft and the reason for the call, a road accident up-country in an isolated area (this was the days before cellphones and like equipment). The caller had been traveling towards a lake area and came across this accident and immediately swung into action. All credit to his response which (would you believe it) brought grumbles from the then hierarchy about the misuse of radiotelephone equipment!!

++++ SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS, Inc., a Non-Profit (IRS 501(c)(3)) Corporation chartered in California - FOUNDED 1968 +++++ ~ William A. Breniman - Founder and President Emeritus ~ **CORRESPONDENCE:** **SOWP Headquarters** - Send letters re Dues, Change of Address and all membership correspondence to: Exec. Sec. Waldo T. Boyd (K6DZY) P.O. Box 86, Geyserville, CA 95441. [Tel: 707-857-3434][email: k6dzy@netdex.com] Dues are \$15 U.S. per Calendar Year or 3 Years - \$40 and must be paid to subscribe to this newsletter. Orders for **SOWP emblems, stationery & SLOP CHEST** items to: Roy I. Couzin, (W6JET) 151 Waner Way, Felton, CA 95018 [TEL:408-335-7874] [email: rcouzin@aol.com] Please enclose SASE. **SOWP QSL CARDS** may be ordered from **RUSPRINT**, 12730 State Line Rd., Leawood, KS 66209 [Tel:1-800-962-5783.] **EDITORIAL OFFICE:** The World Wireless Beacon is published by The Society of Wireless Pioneers, Inc., 5319 Sierra Vista Rd., Murphys, CA USA 95247. [Tel: 209-728-8316][email:earlw@goldrush.com] Editor & Publisher, Earl D. Wilson, Jr. (K6GPB). Send comments, letters and editorial contributions, (with SASE) to the Editor. ORIGINAL MATERIAL IN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE QUOTED IF CREDIT IS GIVEN.

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