

Any of you old-timers out there remember when ships had three letter calls? Of course, it was a bit before my time, but I found the following list in a CDXC bulletin of September 1966. It's based on government lists of 1916, 1919, and 1925, so it cannot list all the uses of a particular call. In fact, it's probably not complete. Anyway, every three letter call in use today was once somewhere else. It's a good bet that very few employees at these stations know the history of these calls. All call signs shown are in actual use by broadcast or (+) utility stations. Underlined stations are names of ships.

Call	Was	Is
KCC	Cape Spencer, AK	+Corpus Christi, TX
KDB	Caracas	Santa Barbara, CA
KEX	Los Angeles, CA	Portland, OR
KFH	Herman Frasch	Wichita, KS
KFI	I. D. Fletcher	Los Angeles, CA
KFS	San Francisco, CA	+Palo Alta, CA
KGA	Coamo	Spokane, WA
KGB	Baganito	San Diego, CA
KGO	Underwood, WA	San Francisco, CA
KGU	Kanakanack	Honolulu, HI
KGW	D. N. Luckenbach	Portland, OR
KGY	Pathfinder	Olympia, WA
KHJ	Koko Head, HI	Los Angeles, CA
KHK	Wahiawa, HI	+Kahuku, HI
KHQ	Phoenix, AZ	Spokane, WA
KID	Matinicock	Idaho Falls, ID
KIS	Marshall, AK	+Anchorage, AK
KIT	Tiger	Yakima, WA
KJR	Rialto, CA	Seattle, WA
KLO	Santa Rosalia	Ogden, UT
KLW	Port Althorp, AK	+Pasco, WA
KLZ	Speedwell	Denver, CO
KMA	Alliança	Shenandoah, IA
KMJ	Matoa	Fresno, CA
KMO	Augusta	Tacoma, WA
KNX	Susanna	Los Angeles, CA
KOA	Hamilton	Denver, CO
KOB	Princess Anne	Albuquerque, NM
KOH	Glenpool	Reno, NV
KOL	Mount Hope	Seattle, WA (gone)
KOY	Herbert L. Pratt	Phoenix, AZ
KPH	Hillcrest, CA	+Bolinas, CA
KPQ	Sunlite	Wenatchee, WA
KQV	Samuel Faunce	Pittsburgh, PA
KSD	San Diego, CA	St. Louis, MO
KSL	St. Louis	Salt Lake City, UT
KSO	St. Paul	Des Moines, IA
KTW	Delaware Sun	Seattle, WA (gone)
KUJ	Mundale	Walla Walla, WA
KVI	Unga Is., AK	Seattle, WA
KWC	Segurança	Stockton, CA
KWK	W. B. Keene	St. Louis, MO
KXA	Boston	Seattle, WA
KXL	City of Taunton	Portland, OR
KXO	City of Brockton	El Centro, CA
KYA	Kanawa	San Francisco, CA
KYW	Wayfarer	Philadelphia, PA
WBT	Binghamton, NY	Charlotte, NC
WBZ	Santa Elena	Boston, MA
WCC	S. Wellfleet, MA	+Chatham, MA
WCM	Calumet, MI	+Irwin, PA
WDR	Detroit, MI	+Miami, FL
WDZ	Aramis	Decatur, IL
WEW	Marquette & Bessemer No. 1	St. Louis, MO
WGH	Grand Haven, MI	Newport News, VA
WGL	Dreadnought	Fort Wayne, IN
WGN	Carl D. Bradley	Chicago, IL
WGR	Governor	Buffalo, NY
WGY	City of Topeka	Schenectady, NY
WHA	Cape Hatteras, NC	Madison, WI
WHK	New Orleans, LA	Cleveland, OH
WHO	Colon	Des Moines, IA
WHP	Point Arena	Harrisburg, PA
WIL	Jim Butler	St. Louis, MO
WIP	Carmen	Philadelphia, PA
WIS	E. R. Sterling	Columbia, SC
WJR	W. M. Tupper	Detroit, MI
WJW	Hoboken, NJ	Cleveland, OH
WKY	Rockingham	Oklahoma City, OK
WLC	New London, CN	+Rogers City, MI
WLS	Arborean	Chicago, IL
WMC	Santa Rita	Memphis, TN
WMT	Point Bonita	Cedar Rapids, IA
WNU	New Orleans, LA	+Slidell, LA

WOC	Oregon	Davenport, IA
WOI	Akron, OH	Ames, IA
WOL	Los Angeles	Washington, DC
WOR	California	New York, NY
WOW	Henry J. Biddle	Omaha, NE
WPD	Tampa, FL	+Tampa, FL
WRC	J. B. Stetson	Washington, DC
WSB	Firwood	Atlanta, GA
WSC	Siasconset, MA	+Tuckerton, NJ
WSL	Sayville, LI, NY	+Amagansett, NY
WSM	Fair Oaks	Nashville, TN
WSY	Virginia Beach, VA	+New York, NY
WWJ	Peru	Detroit, MI
WWL	San Jose	New Orleans, LA
WWV	Washington, DC	+Ft. Collins, CO

CALL LETTERS THAT HAVE A PAST

Reprinted from Popular Radio, July 1925

Call letters that were originally assigned to ships that have met disaster are seldom re-assigned to other ships, in deference to the superstitions of seamen. They are, however, now assigned to broadcasting stations. For example:

KJS, now assigned to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, was formerly used by the steamer North Star in transmitting an important message when on a foggy morning in August 1919, a call for immediate assistance was sent out by the radio operator of the vessel. Radio played an important role in the rescue of all of the 348 persons on board.

WSB, now assigned to the station of the Atlanta Journal, was formerly assigned to the steamer Francis H. Leggett which foundered off the Oregon coast on September 18, 1914, with 67 persons on board, two of whom were lost. After this wreck the call signal was re-assigned to the steamer Firwood which burned off the coast of Peru on December 18, 1919, with 28 persons on board, none of whom were lost.

WHN, now used by the station of Loew's Theatre, New York City, was at one time assigned to the steamer Hanalei which was wrecked. It was later used by the steamer Santa Isabel which was sold to citizens of Chile. When a vessel is sold to a foreign country, the country to which it is sold assigns its own letters to the vessel's station.

KLZ, Reynolds Radio Co., Denver, Col., was the call of the steamer Speedwell in 1920. KLZ and SOS were an important combination of signals on September 29 of that year when the Speedwell was caught in a tropical hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. This storm was so severe that after the distress call and position of the vessel were sent out the engine room became flooded, the dynamo ceased to work and the sea carried away the whole after-deck, taking with it the storage batteries which were necessary to operate the radio station. This catastrophe caused the loss of nine lives, including the captain, mate, and two women passengers, out of 25 persons on board.

KGB, now assigned to the Tacoma Daily Ledger, was at one time used by the steamship D. N. Luckenbach which was sunk by a submarine about 100 miles off the French coast on December 27, 1917.

WGR, Federal Telephone Manufacturing Co., Buffalo, N.Y., was used by the passenger steamer Governor prior to its assignment to the broadcasting station. The Governor was sunk in a collision with the freighter West Hartland in April 1921. Eight lives were lost. No doubt some oldtime operators recollect when WGR was heard up and down the Pacific coast.

WWJ was once the call of the steamer Peru; it is now used by the Detroit News station. The Peru was transferred to the French flag, causing the cancellation of the call letters of the United States.

KLS, now assigned to the Oakland Tribune, was formerly assigned to the steamer Kermanshah which was transferred to the Hungarian flag.

KNX, Los Angeles Evening Express, was formerly used by the vessel Susana which was sold to citizens of Italy.

KOB, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, State College, New Mexico, was used by the steamer Princess Anne up to the time she stranded on Rockaway Shoals, Long Island, February 6, 1920, with 106 persons on board none of whom were lost. The Princess broke in two and the cargo, valued at \$500,000, was practically a total loss.

KRE, Berkeley Gazette, Berkeley, Cal., was at one time assigned to the steamship Florence H. which was blown up by an internal explosion in Quiberon Bay, France, April 17, 1918, causing the loss of 45 lives out of 77 on board.