

# LETTERS

Please address correspondence to:  
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## RADIO YESTERDAY

Sir, I've been looking through the June edition of *HRT* and came across a very interesting article by Jack Hum. It took me back a number of years because Mr. Leslie McMichael and myself knew each other right back before the first War, and that of course is going back some time.

Now the heading of this article was "There was a time when they were all two-letter callsigns". Well, back before the War they were three-letter callsigns — Mr. Leslie McMichael's call was MAX, and my call was DNX, Wimbledon Technical Institute was WNX, Mill Hill School was (if I remember rightly) MHX and Mr. Perrier PFX. Gammidges in those days issued a list of amateur callsigns. It wasn't a very large list as you'll appreciate.

We used to contact Mr. Leslie McMichael — on spark of course. I used to live in Worcester Park in Surrey. I forgot where he lived but it couldn't have been very far away because real DX in those days was 50 miles. If you did 50 miles on spark you were really doing something.

After the War amateurs were issued with two-letter callsigns, almost always appropriate to their name. I had a business then called Dean Brothers, and my callsign was 2DB. And I see Jack Hum's callsign is GSUM — SUM to begin with.

If I remember rightly Leslie McMichael was one of few who founded the BBC — the British Broadcasting Company to begin with. As time went on he got in conjunction with a B. Hesketh of Slough, who had a very small factory there making radio bits and pieces — condensers, HF transformers and resistances. He went in conjunction with B. Hesketh to produce a radio set, and the name then was "L. McMichael in conjunction with B. Hesketh". The Trade Mark then was "MH". Later on it turned into L. McMichael, then it went into L. McMichael Limited as a public company. Now I joined McMichael Radio when it was "McMichael in conjunction with B. Hesketh Limited", and I brought out a portable set then. Of course, portable sets were more or less unknown, and we developed a portable set on an Armstrong circuit. Mr. Mac was very interested and we went along to their research department to more or less get the set in production, but it had a peculiar whistle with it which you couldn't get rid of — the quench frequency. We tried all sorts of ways of getting rid of this whistle, but they decided not to carry on with our set, and went on with a four valve set of their own.

Incidentally, I think Mr. C.G. Allen was the first person in England to receive American Broadcasting, WJZ. He had quite a lot of publicity over it. Later on I think he was the first person to receive an Australian broadcast, because I know that later on the 2LO microphone was presented to Mr. Allen,

and the last time I saw him he had it displayed very proudly at home.

You weren't allowed to use CQ before the War, you had to call "test". Incidentally, the old SOS signal, years and years ago, was "CQ D". I think the first ship to use SOS was the *Titanic*, but I'm not quite sure on that.

## LESLIE DEAN DNX

## USING 10 METRES

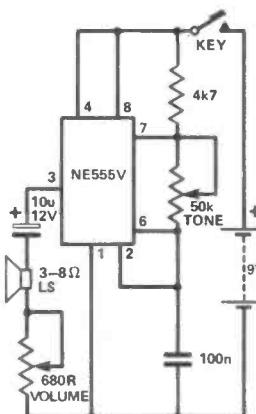
Sir, The article on 10m by G3WPO was very good. It is an interesting and oft neglected band. As an SWL (and now G6) who had, as one of your writers put it, "a flirtation with 11m" I am fully aware of the possibilities of this band. Of course the antenna requirements are much easier for those of us with a small garden. 28MHz on a flat day is still more pleasant than a flat 2m band.

This brings in my second comment. I use the much maligned *Liner 2* by Belcom which can be obtained secondhand for under £100. In company with a BNOS 100W linear, a ZL special beam and Piezo DX354 mike, it has yielded some continental DX and one or two people have complimented me on the audio. The antenna incidentally is only 20ft AGL and we are surrounded by trees.

The *Liner 2* uses a very similar system to the Mizuho you mentioned and puts out 10W using a 12V supply.

Finally, on morse. A pleasant way to learn is to invest a small sum in a few of the morse tapes that are available. I have found these useful and several have the characters sent at 12WPM which is important since one gets to recognise the right speed. After the listening has progressed, and not before, a decent key (not a nasty buzzer!) should be purchased. It's worth spending out on a key that has an adjustable gap and tension. The practice oscillator published in several RSGB books works well, although a 680R pot was substituted for the 2k5 one shown for the volume to make it sound better.

Thus:



There may be some who have not seen this circuit — I built one with a small mains PSU. As always your mag is interesting and lively.

**PETER G6NSU**

## BACK ISSUES

Sir, Today, I purchased the July issue of *Ham Radio Today*. I also have every issue since launch except the June issue. It seems that no newsagent in Southend has been able to get any copies of the June issue. W H Smith, who normally supply my magazines, have had no luck in obtaining a copy for myself and other radio amateurs.

I would be most obliged if you could advise me if you have any back issues available? From where do I obtain same? And the cost with postage.

For all that, it's a damn good mag and more interesting than some of the others available. One suggestion, how about a mods page for those of us who like to rummage about inside the works?

**R H REYNOLDS G6WEM**

*Back issues are available from our Subscription Dept for £1.50 each including postage. The address is 513 London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 6AR — Ed.*

## GOT AN MC3401?

Frank, Could you please let me know where the Motorola MC3401 device mentioned in Bill Sparks excellent article on 10m conversions in June's *HRT* is obtainable, as a fair number of component suppliers have never heard of it.

Glad to see your mag is becoming such popular reading, the format chosen seems to be about right with not too much emphasis on what John Smith's club is doing next Tuesday night!! and enough constructional projects to keep us soldering iron addicts in the workshop for hours!

**TIM BALDERSTONE**

*Yes. It is also known as an LM3900 — Ed.*

## DISGUSTED, BRENTWOOD

Frank, Really now, I thought we might have been able to look forward to a more constructive relationship than that implied by your efforts to publish Jim Bourne's comments on page 5 of your July rag. Are you under orders to be facile, or does it come naturally?

A "component firm in Brentwood, Essex" sells a great many catalogues, and by selling these for money is able to: (a) Provide a lot more information and up to date pricing