

# VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #55

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2010



**VWOA Director Herbert Holzberg PhD**

VWOA Email Issue #55 Featured Author

\*\*\*\*\*

never quite sure of the cause. We started to hang around together, sharing our miseries, and became good friends. We were out of the normal pipeline going to Korea, so it turned out that we were both assigned to Germany. All this time, I was still guarding that Congressional letter I had received from Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. advising the Army to place me in the Armed Forces Radio Network.

The departure date was finally set as we prepared to leave on a troop transport for an 11-day sojourn to Europe. There were several thousand troops going together and the rumor was prevalent that the guys from the East

## VWOA Director Herbert Holzberg who was the Featured Author of Email Issue #54 entitled: **CHAPTER 6 Draft Submission UNCLE SAM WANTS ME AGAIN**

ended **PART ONE** of his story with a revelation that he had entered the G2 headquarters and reported to the Major sitting down at his desk.

“He didn’t waste too many words in informing me that I would be terminated from the CIC because of something that was discovered during my background search. The worst part of his whole message was that he would not tell me what had caused this action.”

The story continues with **START OF PART TWO**

There were several of us waiting around for a new assignment in Ft. Holabird when I met my friend Bernie Unger. Ernie came from the Bronx, New York also, so we had a lot in common. Bernie was also removed from the CIC after he finished his studies. He too was

---

would draw the KP assignment as we had the largest contingent. This was to be avoided at all costs. The duties on the ship required 11-hours a day in a hot steamy Galley that was definitely not my cup of tea. Bernie and I received a break when they announced on the loudspeaker while we were getting ready to board the ship that any GI with a clerk-typist occupation specialty (MOS), should report to a certain Sergeant. We both knew that this could be a trap! Sometimes the army in their cruel sense of humor asks for volunteers for one particular assignment but then places them into a less desirable task like cleaning garbage cans. In any case, we decided to take a chance to escape the almost certain kitchen duties which loomed ahead for us. We did not have the requested Military Occupation Specialty (MOS), but then who would know! We were indeed fortunate that we both were assigned to the troop office. Our duties were to assign work details to all other soldiers on our ship. It even was enhanced more so by allowing us to eat in the Officers Mess rather than the normal Army Mess which lives up to its name.

The voyage was pleasant and enjoyable as we landed in Bremerhaven, Germany and transferred by rail to Zweibrücken, Germany in the South where we would spend 4-days and eventually be placed in our newly assigned duties. I guarded my congressional letter and eventually was in the room where we filled out papers which led to our new activities. When

the Lieutenant came to my desk, I whipped out this magic letter not fully assured that it would accomplish its mission of assignment. The Officer stared at the letter but did not say anything to me and left the room. The very next day we were lined up outside to hear the Master Sergeant read the role alphabetically with the designated fate that would be your calling during the balance of your vacation in Germany. Although every GI had some sort of MOS, here was no assurance that you would be selected for it. As they told us, the Army has the right to do what it considers best for the Service. That particular day, they needed Ambulance Drivers for the 108<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, Your MOS was of very little significance. The Sergeant started to read the names alphabetically and everyone was assigned as Ambulance Drivers until he came to my name. He looked up in disbelief when he read that I would be leaving for Frankfurt, Germany to join the Armed Forces Network.

He looked directly at me and shouted...HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE THAT? I answered being very nonchalant and replied "Just lucky I guess". He knew better than that but it was too late...I had escaped from his clutches and there was nothing that he could do about it! Immediately after my name, the assignments continued without abate with all other victims headed to the target of the day, the good old 108<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital.

---

My friend Bernie was initially assigned to the Hospital but somehow managed to use his MOS to be assigned to a worse situation. He was sent to a Combat Engineer Battalion where your tools are Pick & Shovels. His first letter to me in Frankfurt indicated that he could sink no lower. He arrived and found that his outfit was leaving to live in the woods for about 2 weeks building bridges. Bernie was always thinking to improve his lot in life and in a few months he was teaching a class of GI's to read. The army was trying to ring everyone up to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.

The Armed Forces Network (AFN), was located about 20 miles outside of Frankfurt, Germany. It consisted of several Radio Studios, a Master Control with a powerful 100,000 Watt transmitter located 20 miles away. In addition, phone lines transmitted the programs all over Germany and the European Theatre of Operations. We lived in a Castle, The Von Bruning Castle which was not quite as glamorous as it sounds. When I arrived there I was most welcomed. I told them I would rather do announcing but he need was for engineers so that was my assignment initially. They did promise to let me do some announcing later on. The duties were exactly the same as my civilian work so I wasn't suffering too much during my firsts few months in a town called Hoercht. One day they asked me to take charge of the Heidelberg operation and that's where the fun really started. The Army Brass was entrenched in Heidelberg and

AFN had a 5,000 Watt AM transmitter. We were relaying all programs originating in Frankfurt. There was another GI, a Sergeant Ritchie, 2 Germans and myself who ran this whole operation. Someone had the foresight to locate our Radio Station at the Civilian and Officers Swim Club and we had an Olympic size pool all for ourselves most of the time. The view was extraordinary with mountain ranges ringing the entire area. In addition, all four of us were Radio Amateurs (Hams), and we had an Amateur Radio Station on the air most of the day. We were not on any army base so we could go to the mess hall if we desired or use some of the local restaurants. Heidelberg was a wonderful and interesting town with many things to do including the Civilian & Officers Club in the Molkenkur Mountain near the legendary Heidelberg Castle. They also had a Club run by the Jewish Welfare Board where they had entertainment as well as lox and bagels on Sunday morning.

While relaxing in bed one morning, I received a phone call from AFN Frankfurt asking me if I would like to visit Turkey. It seems that NATO was opening a new regional office and they wanted another fellow and myself to do some recordings of the activities and send it back to AFN Frankfurt for use on the network. I jumped at the opportunity as it sounded like a real adventure. Fred Dwyer, an announcer at AFN and I left by overnight sleeper train to Paris where we had a driver waiting to bring us to Fontainebleau, France to join the rest of our

---

group. It consisted of Colonel Barney Oldfield, (a son of the famous race car driver), who was a Public Relations Officer, 3 Air Force Writers for the newspaper, Stars and stripes, and we two guys from AFN. It turned out that NATO headquarters in Paris had loaned us a C-47 airplane that is identical to a DC-3, along with 2 pilots. Colonel Oldfield was concerned about the food and drink in Turkey, so he took along about 6 cases of tuna and 12 cases of Coca-Cola. It turned out that we didn't need either but he wasn't taking any chances.

In the army we learned that you do not take off and head directly to your destination. The Colonel said we would have to be briefed about our duties in Turkey. We then all decided that briefing was another way of scheduling a holiday that we did not object to at all. We spent 3 enjoyable days in Rome acting as tourists and relaxing all the time. After we decided to leave, the question came up...where do we go next? Certainly not directly to Turkey as we had some additional briefing to accomplish. Unanimously, we decided to visit Athens. Now that was an experience I never will forget! The Colonel stayed at the King George Hotel in Athens with the American Bar in the lobby. The hotel was great and right in the middle of the downtown area. I was mostly impressed by the cleanliness of the city back in 1952. It certainly isn't that way any longer... The rest of our group stayed at a seashore resort called Kafisia, just on the outskirts of Athens. It

was a fascinating area to relax in with lilting music to help you fall asleep from the outdoor dance floor just below my window. We spent another 3 or 4 days in Athens before jumping into our private C47 and heading for our main mission in Izmir, Turkey.

We finally arrive there and found that we had a contingent of 25 GI's sent there to open the new NATO headquarters. IN 1952 very few Americans had visited Turkey, so we were still a novelty. English wasn't too widely spoken in Izmir at that time except for the girls who had graduated from the American College in Istanbul. Several of them had joined our group to handle the administrative paperwork. French was also a most useable language in that area but that didn't stop us. Somehow, there's always a way to be understood in most countries even if the language is foreign. As a photographer, I found that I was widely accepted by the local people who loved to have their picture taken. We didn't have a mess hall to dine in so we were allowed to munge at a local Turkish restaurant. The proprietor saw his business double in a short time and bought a Turkish-English dictionary to facilitate the growth. They didn't have menu at that gourmet establishment, so you went directly into the kitchen and pointed to whatever you desired. Strangely enough, it worked out most satisfactorily and their stuffed cabbage was excellent. They only had one hotel in Izmir at that time and it was booked solid. The management made some sort of a



---

tent city on the roof, which really wasn't too bad. We were only going to be there for 3 weeks before heading back home. We had breakfast in the hotel every morning. I don't know how but someone communicated to the Maitre d' that an American Breakfast consisted of orange juice, sweet rolls, 2 eggs and coffee. This made it quite simple as all we had to order was an American Breakfast and our problems were over. Well not exactly, the hotel menu was under the glass covering the table. After a few days, we became more familiar with the Turkish language and prices. We discovered that they were charging us double for our breakfast. Pointing that out to the manager, he adjusted our future bills to comply.

The big highlight of the trip was the appearance one-day of Miss Universe. The Beauty Pageant had just been completed and Miss Turkey had been selected to the coveted title of Miss Universe in 1952. She was touring Turkey and stopped by our base as a goodwill gesture. Our Colonel Barney decided that it would be a good publicity opportunity to have each GI take a photo with Miss Universe and send it to our hometown paper. Living in the Bronx, New York, my hometown paper was the New York Post. I guess I was naïve about the manner that public relations publicity follows and did not give it any more thought after my 30 second appearance with Miss Universe. About nine months later when returning to the States, I found out that the

N.Y. Post had published my publicity photo with Miss Universe in the center of the front page! The caption under the photo stated "Life in the Service can be beautiful". My mother told me that her phone rang for 2 weeks solid after that photo appeared. She received phone calls from the TV Networks, Newspapers and magazines wanting to know if anything was going on between us two!!! Unfortunately, I was unaware of these happening until I arrived home.

**END OF PART TWO  
-TO BE CONTINUED-**

### *WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER*

From: WAYNE J. FLICKINGER PhD  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 7:22 PM  
To: [ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)  
Subject: Re: VWOA 2009 Newsletter #54

Dear Francis,  
Thank you for the Newsletter # 54. I enjoyed reading it and the Draft Submission section brought back memories of when I reported to the assigned Army camp.  
Uncle Sam sure could find an old cattle train for all of us to get us to our destination.  
The information about my activities on page 12 was a surprise, and pleased to see it included.  
Thanks for the phone call too.  
73, AE4WF Wayne  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
\*\*\*\*\*

We sadly report that we have received notice recently of the following SK VWOA Members:

\*\*\*\*\*

Life VWOA Member

William R. Miller K2GCE

SK 02/12/08

Started in amateur radio as a Boy Scout.

First on air 1942

Served US Navy as RM 1/c 1942-46

Supervising Nurse at State Hospital in N Y S

\*\*\*\*\*

Life VWOA Member

Robert W. McFadden Sr. K4FF

SK 6/30/2009

McFadden, Sr., Robert W., 78 of Tampa, Fl. passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at Life Path Hospice . He was of the Baptist Faith. He retired from U.S.C.G. and Merchant Marines as a Communications officer. In his retirement he was an active HAM operator.

\*\*\*\*\*

Life VWOA Member

Luther "Eldon" Ryan K6BRP

SK 9/04/09

Member of ARRL-QCWA-local radio club

02-43 to 12-45 USN RM1C

11-46 to 2-53 Broadcast Chief Engineer

2-53 to 7-55 Radio Engineer International

Short Wave Station

7-56 to 1-91 Communications Electrician

From: Patrick Ballante K6HL

Date: January 4, 2010 7:25:37 PM EST

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Re: Obituary for Luther Ryan "Eldon"

\*Message: \*Hi Wendell, let me know if you get this completely. Please - no need to reimburse - I am happy to do this for you and the VWOA. 73/Pat K6HL

Luther Ryan "Eldon"



Luther "Eldon" Ryan passed away on August 4, 2009, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born December 30, 1922, in Levasy, Missouri. He was the third of four children born to

Luther Newton and Eugenia Ryan. Eldon grew up and attended public schools in Missouri and was a graduate of Central Technical Institute. He became interested in the technical aspects of radio about the age of 10. He would spend hours upon hours building Crystal radio sets, and later vacuum tube type radios. He loved radio and electronics, which became his lifetime profession. He often said "I never worked a day in my life. My work has always been fun." He was married to Palma Lea David on May 29, 1942. They were happily married until her death in 1999. Eldon served in the Navy during World War II in the South Pacific

---

theatre where he was engaged in three major battles and helped with the liberation of the Philippines and the occupation of Japan. After the war he returned to civilian life and entered into Broadcast Engineering. He worked as a Radio Engineer in St. Joseph, Missouri until April 1947, when he returned to Independence, Missouri and helped in the construction of Radio Station KIMO where he was Chief Engineer until 1953. In February 1953, he accepted the appointment with the Department of State under Secretary of State: John Foster Dulles. Eldon, his wife and daughter spent the next two years with The American Embassy in Manila, Philippines; then a year in Washington, D.C. In 1957, an aerospace firm from California offered him a position and re-location to Southern California. He worked the next 14 years in Aerospace Electronics. In 1970, Eldon went into business for himself. His reputation and word of his abilities spread rapidly. He was soon installing and servicing Music and Sound Systems for some of the music publishers and celebrities of Hollywood. In 1973, the business became a "sideline" when he accepted a position as Communication Electrician with the City of Los Angeles. He retired in 1991 after 17 years of service. He was a past member of The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He was an avid Radio Amateur for over 50 years. He had been a resident of the Torrance area for the past 44 years. Eldon was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Pam; and his only daughter, Tamera Lloyd Austin. He is survived

by his sisters, Nadine McQuerry and Mildred Hostetter (Independence, MO); his son-in-law, George Austin (Lomita); and his grandchildren, Karen Lloyd (Torrance) and John Austin (Lomita). Please sign the guestbook at [www.dailybreeze.com/obits](http://www.dailybreeze.com/obits).

Published in Daily Breeze on August 10, 2009

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Carl Zelich

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 12:35 PM

To: [ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)

Cc: [wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Subject: Re: WVOA CallSign UPDATE

In a message dated 12/29/2009 12:25:31 P.M. Eastern Standard Time,

[ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net) writes:

A PDF file is attached of the December 28, 2009 WVOA CallSign Update File.

If you know of any changes, please advise Wendell Benson, WVOA Assistant Secretary [wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)

Many thanks for your efforts in maintaining the list.

And a Happy New Year to you and yours, 73,  
Carl Zelich, AA4MI

Life Member, Volunteer Examiner, American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

President, Seminole County ARES/RACES Group (SARG)

Board Member, Lake Monroe ARS (LMARS)  
Member, QCWA Citrus Chapter 45 #13738 (QCWA)

Honorary Member, North Brevard ARC (NBARC)

Member, Veteran Wireless Operators

Association (VWOA)  
Member, Old Old Timers Club (OOTC) #3887  
AMSAT #36336  
Member, Orlando ARC (OARC)  
Member, Society for Preservation of Amateur  
Radio (SPAR)  
Kennedy Space Center/NASA/  
Astronaut Memorial Foundation/Center for  
Space Education (CSE)  
[aa4mi@arrl.net](mailto:aa4mi@arrl.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Rolf Marschner  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 12:10 PM  
To: radio-officers@googlegroups.com  
Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] new question

Hello all,

I am searching for a picture of a  
Redifon G341 transmitter from 1972.

I'll use it for a translation. Is there  
anyone who can help me?

Vy 73, Rolf, DL9CM

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Francis T Cassidy  
To: radio-officers@googlegroups.com  
Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] new question

Attached is a PDF file of the Redifon G341  
transmitter from 1972 from the following:

*October 16, 2007*

*This is the Eleventh Section of the manuscript  
"Radio Stations Common? Not This Kind"  
by Spurgeon G. Roscoe*

*Radioman Special Royal Canadian Navy 1956-  
1961*

*Graduate Radio College of Canada, Toronto*

*Graduate National Radio Institute, Washington*

*First Class Certificate of Proficiency in Radio #  
6-108*

*Coast Guard Radiotelegraph Operators  
Certificate # 054*

*Amateur Radio Station VE1BC*

Suggest you contact him, before using.

Frank Cassidy VWOA

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Rolf Marschner  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 2:29 PM  
To: Spud Roscoe  
Cc: [ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)  
Subject: new question

Dear Spud,  
dear Frank,

mni tnx for your quick reply. I got a very nice  
story from Tony, G3ZRJ about his last ship and  
his work at "Portishead Radio".

Of course I will ask the British Radio and  
Electronic Officers Union.

It is 2023 local time and I have finished the  
translation.

Vy 73, Rolf



---

PS: Just to know with whom you are corresponding, I send you a photo from 2008. It was on the meeting of the German Radio Officers Association in Bremen---

I am on the right!



Rolf Marschner DL9CM

From: Spud Roscoe Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 1:06 PM  
To: radio-officers@googlegroups.com  
Subject: Re: [Radio Officers, &c] new question  
You were a nano second ahead of me Frank.  
Nice to know someone knows where to find this stuff.

73

Spud VE1BC