

# VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #56

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2010



**VWOA Chairman F.T. Cassidy**

The Officers and Directors of VWOA elected Francis T Cassidy for another term 2010-2011 as the Chairman of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association.

Thank you for your previous support and confidence in the accomplishments of VWOA in my 2008-2009 term of office as Chairman.



**Radio Officer Herbert Holzberg**

VWOA Email Issue #56 Featured Author

VWOA Director Herbert Holzberg PhD., who was the Featured Author of Email Issue #54 and #55 entitled:

## CHAPTER 6 Draft Submission

### UNCLE SAM WANTS ME AGAIN

ended **PART TWO** of his story with: " 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". " **START OF PART THREE**

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One day during the week stay in Izmir, I was given notice to report to the 2-star General who was in charge of our NATO operations. For the life of me I couldn't imagine why a 2-star general would want to talk to a lowly corporal. I didn't remember enjoying anything that terrible. I approached his office with trepidation, saluted as I entered the room. He was sitting behind a large desk smoking a cigar while a shiny new Leica camera rested on his desk. He started the conversation with "I heard that you're a very good photographer". I certainly wasn't going to deny that compliment as modest as I am...so I agreed. He finally came out with the purpose of my visit as I breathed a sigh of relief. He wanted me to take his camera with 3 rolls of film to capture 108 scenes of the very worst slum areas in Izmir, Turkey. When he saw that I hesitated while trying to understand the purpose of the photographic mission, he explained further. It seems that his wife and family wanted to come and stay with him in Izmir and "it wouldn't be convenient at this time". He sort of winked at me as he made that last comment and I understood completely. It may not seem difficult, but taking 108 slum photos is not any easy job, but it was fun, creative and I was helping a worthy cause!!!

Eventually our time in Izmir drew to a close and we had to head back to Fountainbleau, France and Heidelberg, Germany Colonel Barney Oldfield, Jr. contacted NATO to send

down our C-47 plane that was to take us home. NATO replied that they didn't have any planes available and to get back the best way we could. That meant a miserable 24-hour ferry trip to Athens as no commercial planes were flying into Izmir.

The Colonel calmed down after hitting the ceiling. He phoned for his own C-47 plane, which arrived several days later. Just as we attended an imaginary briefing on the way down, we all agreed to have an imaginary debriefing on the way home. Another holiday was staring at us for our hard working publicity crew. The biggest problem we had was to decide where to spend the next week. A few places came up including Naples, Italy but none were totally acceptable until the Isle of Capri was mentioned. We knew about the Isle of Capri from the song that was most popular a few years before. We arrived in Naples and took a ferry about an hour and a half to the enchanted Isle of Capri.

Capri itself was a Shangri-La with tourist from all over the world relaxing and bargaining for trinkets to bring home. We all bought black tams to wear on our heads to make us feel like tourists. The Italian food was gourmet and we just didn't ever want to leave. The open air cafes in the middle of the islands elevation was a delightful spot to drink cappuccino, revel in the scenery and people. The island was close to the most enjoyable time I ever spent in the Service. As all things must come to an end, after one week it was time to head back to our

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original bases. With just a little regret, we flew back to Frankfurt and eventually returned to Heidelberg to enjoy the remainder of my Army career.

True to his word, the Program Director of AFN in Frankfurt assigned me to do several remote broadcasts from the Molkenkur Civilian Club high in the mountains overlooking Heidelberg. They had various dance bands playing for dancing at the Club and I set up the remote equipment and did the announcing. I handled it like a dance band remote back in the States introducing all the songs that the group played. I remember the name of this Dutch Band, Harry Willing and the Mad Monsters. They had a beautiful girl with a voice to match but the Program Director wouldn't let me place her on the airwaves, as he only wanted band music. The vocalist wasn't too happy with me even though I explained the problem to her the best way I could. These remote broadcasts were heard all over Europe and it was a thrill to finally get name recognition. My time spent with AFN in Europe was most pleasant throughout and I really do not regret my time on that continent.

Toward the end of my stay, I made a few trips to Paris and London, both with my Buddy, Bernie Unger, and sometimes on AFN business. I would be remiss if I didn't relate one particular incident that occurred in Paris. Master Sergeant Riddle, and Air Force writer and I found ourselves in Paris to record some

General at the Shape Headquarters. As it was Saturday night and we were completely free, the Sergeant who had been around a long time and knew all the possibilities came up with an interesting idea. At the Café Lido in Paris, a well-known black singer, Julia Richmond, was headlining the show. He suggested that we go backstage and interview her for AFN. Going back stage at the Lido with all those young ladies, some even wearing clothes, was an intriguing way to spend an evening. We arrived at the Lido and were ushered in to see Julia Richmond who was a blues type of singer. She was a real heavyweight but her talent took your mind off her physical appearance. We recorded her interview and then went backstage in the wings to see her perform with her small group of musicians. She was great and invited us back to see the entire show the next evening from her own box right on top of the stage. While waiting in the wings for her act to begin, the chorus girls had to pass by wearing very little but their birthday suit. The Air Force writer made sort of a shame type noise with his tongue and one of the girls said "yes terrible isn't it". It really seemed very funny at the time.

Eighteen months seems like an infinite time exposure to the European theatre and the Army, but it really wasn't. Particularly when each day brought new adventures eventually, as the curtain must come down on all escapades, it was time to leave, return to the

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States and resume my civilian life. Oh, there were exceptions. A small group of GI's who fell in love with their European adventure were able to negotiate an agreement to continue at AFN in Frankfurt as a civilian. Thus, they would enjoy civilian pay and living conditions while continuing the same administrative or on-the-air work they had been doing in the Service. That was not for me however; as I was anxious to resume my civilian life which had been interrupted for 4 years already thanks to both wars that demanded my service.

The first step on my way home from Germany was to board a troop transport in Bremerhaven, Germany. The voyage could be an eventful 11-day cruise or a laborious kitchen police unbending form of slavery. I chose the first option of course hoping to pick up my same duties in the Troop Office of the ship. It was a snowy day in Bremerhaven when I boarded the Army Transport to return stateside. The line formed around the deck 3 times in order to be invited into the mess hall. All that time, I was getting wetter and wetter from the chilling falling snow. It reached a climax when one of the soldiers passed by who had just left the mess hall and indicated that the lunch fare was Army Hot Dogs!!! For the moment, I couldn't think of anything more repulsive and yet, I was hungry at the same time. At some times in your life, you have to take a calculated risk. I left the chow line which had moved an estimated 2 feet during

the last 45 minutes, to fend for myself. I walked into the Ships Office to request my former position on the outgoing SS General Barth. Too bad, I was told that the office positions had all been filled before I had arrived on the ship. Nevertheless, I inquired around and found that the Chief Steward was looking for a typist to do the menus every day. I volunteered immediately, (one of the actions that I usually find hard to do), had a meeting with the Chief and was given the job. Immediately he took me in the Officers Mess to enjoy Army hamburgers on white porcelain dishes which was a 150% improvement over the enlisted mans mess. My life was changing already for the better. The Chief Stewart was a really nice fellow especially when I reminded him that I was a former Merchant Marine Radio Operator sometimes known as "Sparks". The actual typing only took an hour and one-half each day and the rest of the time was my own.

My super status on ship allowed me to roam all over and I visited the Radio Operator who was working his regular shift. We hit it off real well as we had a lot of things in common. He was looking to enter the Radio Broadcast industry and we had some exciting discussions about the best approach. As soon as he found out that I was a licensed Radio Operator, he let me take over his radio watch while he went around bringing me back special delicacies to enjoy. His effort on my part climaxed a relaxing and enjoyable cruise for the 11-days.

There is no reason to keep you spellbound any longer. I had promised to conclude the story of my good friend at basic training in Camp Chaffee who joined the Paratroopers. Well I met him again after 18 months in Bremerhaven when we we're about to board our ship. He told me that he joined the Paratroopers to get out of the pipeline going to Korea. Once he was sent to their camp at Ft. Benning, GA, he told the Sergeant that he changed his mind and didn't wish to become a sky jumper. The Sergeant didn't take his change of heart so kindly and made him take every step of Paratrooper training including going up in a plane for their first jump. They couldn't force him to jump however, and he eventually was reassigned to Germany. He went through a lot of anguish but he did remove himself from the pipeline going to Korea. Let me tell you that it took a lot of courage to pull that off.

Upon returning to the States, I was shipped to Camp Kilmer, NJ to await my discharge. It took about one week. The real problem was that I only had one shirt available, the one I was wearing. I didn't have any laundry facilities to wash it and it looked worse each day. Somehow that problem too passed and I received my coveted discharge. It was hard to believe that I was civilian again with all the economic and other responsibilities that go along with a full choice of activities. I felt some trepidation for my adventures to follow but...I couldn't wait to get started.

## END OF STORY

### WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

From: [D.J.J. Ring, Jr.](#)

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 11:19 AM

To: [Radio Officers &c](#)

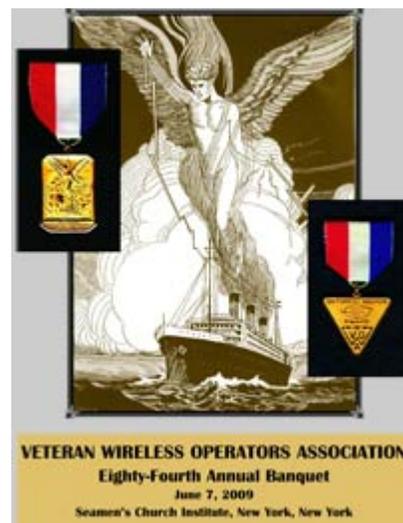
Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] Patron "Saint"

Our patron saint: St. Gabriel.

The patron of all those involved with messages and communications with the exception of those involving images is St. Gabriel the archangel, the messenger sent many times - the last time to Mary of Nazareth.

The patron of television is St. Clair. Who had a vision on Christmas when she was prevented from attending Christmas mass by illness.

Here is a photo of a VWOA yearbook - you perhaps can see Gabriel over a ship with sparks coming from the angel and the ship. A very powerful piece of artwork.



Those interested in reading our yearbook may do so:

[http://www.vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA\\_2009\\_yearbookweb.pdf](http://www.vwoa.org/Newsletters/VWOA_2009_yearbookweb.pdf)

More of this wonderful organization at <http://www.vwoa.org/>

We have many people on this list - including Officers of the Organization - and I extend with them an invitation to ALL those on this list to join this wonderful organization.

73 DR David J. Ring, Jr., N1EA

-30- DR

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-----Original Message-----

From: "Wendell R. Benson"

Sent: Jan 21, 2010 2:12 PM

Subject: Re: Member?

On Jan 21, 2010, at 1:52 PM, wrote:

Hi Wendell,

My memory is failing me. Before I fill out an app for membership please tell me if I am already a member.

73 de Ray Maurstad W3HUV

No, you aren't. Believe it was mentioned a few times but never happened.

Often think of you and our days at ROU hqtrs waiting for a ship and your wife working across the street at Horn and Hardart.

Also seeing all those emails this week about WOE.

I was listening that last morning when you pulled into Norfolk for the last time on the Sabine tanker before hanging up the key.  
73

Wendell ww2g

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From: Ray Maurstad

Date: January 21, 2010 2:25:53 PM EST

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

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

Cc: Marion Eva

Subject: Re: Member?

Reply-To: Ray Maurstad

Oh, thanks very much Wendell. I loved your message and will copy it to Marion. My God where have all the years gone? HI We are both still kicking along and still enjoying life. Sorry about the VWOA non-app situation...guess I am too pre-occupied with too many things going on. We enjoy a large family and several gr gr grandchildren.

73 de RA W3huv (I will fill out the app).

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visit <http://www.qrz.com> and enter k4msg

A nice long bio of Paul H. Bock and a photo of his ham station Wendell

From: Rolf Marschner

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 5:35 AM

To: [radio-officers@googlegroups.com](mailto:radio-officers@googlegroups.com)

Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] Fw: GB10GKA

Hi all,

following received from Tony, G3ZRJ 73, Rolf

----- Original Message -----

From: "Tony"

<[g3zrj.morsekey@btinternet.com](mailto:g3zrj.morsekey@btinternet.com)>

To: "Rolf Marschner"

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 11:26 AM

Subject: GB10GKA

> Hi Rolf,

> I thought you might like to include this info  
in your magazine or newsgroup:

> Vy 73

> Tony G3ZRI

>

> To mark the 10th Anniversary of the closure  
of the World's largest Maritime Radio Station

> Portishead Radio / GKA, a special callsign

GB10GKA has been granted. GB10GKA is

being activated for a period of one month 30th  
April 2010 through 27 May 2010.

>

> Hours of operation will be dependent on  
individual operator's free time however, it is  
intended that the callsign will be active  
extensively throughout the licenced period.

Operation will be primarily on CW.

>

> Operations will be on all HF bands from the  
following stations, each manned by an ex-GKA  
Radio Officer.

>

> G3YEC Rick 30 April thru 6 May QTH near  
Colchester, Essex, England

> G3ZRI Tony 7 May thru 13 May QTH near  
Hereford, Herefordshire, England

> GW3UOF Mike 14 May thru 20 May QTH

near Treorchy, Mid Glamorgan, Wales

> G3TJE/G4HLN Pete/Larry 21 May thru 27  
May QTH Nr Burnham on Sea,  
Somerset, England.

>

> Special Anniversary QSL cards will be  
produced to mark this historic event, eQSL will  
also

> be used. Certificates for contacting  
GB10GKA on more than 4 HF bands will be  
available via

> soft copy thus at no cost to the winners. If  
you work us on more than 4 bands please  
contact G3ZRI as shown below so that your  
certificate can be sent to you via email.

>

> Point of contact: Tony Roskilly G3ZRI

[g3zrj.morsekey@btinternet.com](mailto:g3zrj.morsekey@btinternet.com)

>

> Information about Portishead Radio can be  
found at:

> <http://www.gka.btinternet.co.uk/>

>

> Thanks for your cooperation

> 73

> Tony Roskilly G3ZRI License holder for  
GB10GKA

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From: [Wendell R. Benson](mailto:Wendell.R.Benson)

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 8:58 AM

To: [Francis T. Cassidy](mailto:Francis.T.Cassidy)

Subject: water meter info – NYC

FYI: About the new wireless water meters  
being installed in NYC and possible source of  
RF interference

To All -

This topic was brought up by Steve Friedman/WB2KHO yesterday evening during our monthly ECS General Meeting. A discussion of these new RF metering devices ensued. Thanks to Assistant Station Manager Cesare Mancini/KB2NOW for researching this information.

'73,  
Larry Lutzak/WA2CNV  
President - ARC ECS (ECS ARC)  
www.arcecs.org

Some information on the new water meters. Looks like the indoor unit is on 450-470 mhz to the outside unit, and the outside unit is on 2.5ghz to the main network. It transmits 4 times a day, or every 6 hours.

From the nyc dep website:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/water\\_and\\_sewer\\_bills/amr\\_about.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/water_and_sewer_bills/amr_about.shtml)

This is the company that makes the equipment:  
<http://www.aclara.com/AclaraRF/pages/default.aspx>

An article with picture of the meter:  
<http://www.engadget.com/2009/03/25/wireless-water-meters-on-the-loose-in-new-york-city/>

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

Updated information on  
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

His wife Muriel wrote a note of thanks for the information about her husband's participation and history with Amateur Radio, she was not aware of all of the dates provided in the SK release. She graciously provided a monetary donation to VWOA to allow us to continue the work which Bill really enjoyed and all the friends he made as a result of his Membership in VWOA.

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Life Veteran VWOA Member  
JEROME MULBERG W2MJP  
SK 09/22/2009

Received training at the U.S. Army Boston Marine Radio Operators School and sailed with the U.S. Army Signal Corps Transport Service. He served on the SS Belle Isle from 1943 to 1945 making trips to Greenland and Newfoundland. He also served on a Sea Going Tug in 1945 towing Liberty Ships from New York to Newport News, VA

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