

Phillips Short Hand For  
American Radio Amateurs  
ABRIDGED DICTIONARY

By Charles Gordon Hieronymus, W 2 G W S

In 1879, Walter P. Phillips expanded and standardized a telegraphic short hand that had been developing among press operators over a period of many years. The purpose of the code was to make it possible for the sender to move press reports with the least physical effort. There were no bugs or other sending devices, so all sending was on straight keys. By using Phillips code, an operator could send at a moderately slow speed and still move as much press as if he had been spelling out every word while sending at top speed.

The use of Phillips code was not permitted in the texts of telegrams, but was used only in moving press reports, either "press specials", each sent on a direct circuit set up for that one special or on large leased circuit networks such as used by the AP and the UPI.

The receiving operator spelled out every word, so the editor could make modifications and send the original copy directly to the typesetters.

This list of telegraphic short hand groups is mostly an abridgement of The Phillips Code as it was revised by E. E. Bruckner in 1925. It is not really a code, but is similar to Gregg short hand in some ways, yet it is distinctly different in one way. (See next page.)

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Gregg uses hand written long, short, and broken lines, long and short curves, and combinations of these for letters, words, and phrases, whereas Phillips code is made up of various combinations of letters of the alphabet transmitted in Morse code for the purpose of saving the physical efforts of the senders of press reports, which are translated in full by receiving operators as they copy the reports.

It is second nature for old Morse operators to use short hand groups in QSOs with other hams whom they know to have been Morse operators of the large Morse telegraph press circuits era, and when talking with experienced amateurs who can be expected to be able to translate the groups because the sender uses them judiciously in the context of their conversation.

In fact, it was just such a situation that caused AF2L to request me to send him a list of about 50 of the most commonly used Phillips code words in QSOs between Morse operators of the old school. I had used a few groups in conversations with him. No group was used except wherein I was reasonably sure he could translate it from the context of our conversation. He had requested confirmations of some of his translations. All of them were correct.

I agreed to send him the list, but found that about 450 groups was the absolute minimum number of groups I could compile, if I were to do justice to the effort. This abridgement is a direct result of his request.

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AB - About  
 ABH - Abolish ABHD ABHG ABHN - Abolition  
 ABN - Abandon ABND ABNG ABNM -ment  
 ABQ - Absolute ABQY -ly  
 ABV - Above  
 ACD - Accord ACG -ing ACGY -ingly  
 ACP - Accept ACPD ACPG ACB -able  
 ACV - Active ACVS-ities ACVLY-ly ACVTY -ity  
 ADC - Advice  
 ADG - Advantage ADGS ADGX - Advantageous  
 ADS - Address ADSD ADZG ADSS  
 ADZ - Advise ADZD ADZG ADZS  
 AF - After AFW -ward  
 AFD - Afford AFG -ing  
 AFN - Afternoon  
 AGN - Again  
 AJ - Adjust AJD AJG AJM -ment  
 AK - Acknowledge AKD AKG AKM -ment  
 AMA - America AMN AMNS  
 AMB - Ambition AMBS AMX -tious AMXY -iously  
 AMPF - Amplify AMPD AMPG AMPN - Amplification  
 AMU - Amuse AMUD AMUG AMUM  
 AMZ - Amaze AMZD AMZG AMZM  
 ANC - Announce ANCD ANCG ANCM ANCS  
 ANR - Another  
 ANT - Anticipate ANTD ANTG ANTN -ion  
 ANX - Anxious ANXTY -iety ANXY -ly  
 APC - Appreciate APCD APCG APCN -ion APCV -ive  
 APL - Appeal APLD APLG APLS  
 APP - Appoint APPD APPG APM -ment APMS  
 APR - Appear APRC -ance APRD APRG  
 APV - Approve APVD APVG APVL -al  
 APX - Approximate APXD APXG APXN APXS APXY  
 AR - Answer ARD ARG ARS  
 ARA - Arrange ARAD ARAG ARAM -ment  
 ART - All right

ARV - Arrive ARVD ARVG ARVL  
 ASA - As soon as ASAP - As soon as possible  
 ATN - Attention ATNS ATV -ive ATVY -ively  
 AUY - Authority AUYS  
 AUZ - Authorize AUZD AUZG AUZN -ation AUZS  
 AVL - Avail AVB -able AVBTY AVLD AVLG AVLS  
 AX - Ask AXD AXG  
 AY - Any AYB -body AYG -thing AYM -more  
 AY4 -where AYO -one AYW -way  
 B - Be BG -ing  
 BDA - Birthday  
 BF - Before BFH -hand  
 BFL - Beautiful BFY  
 BH - Both  
 BN - Been  
 BTN - Between  
 BTR - Better  
 BUN - Bulletin  
 BV - Believe BVD BVG BVS  
 BZ - Business  
 C - See  
 CD - Could CDB -be  
 CFM - Confirm CFMD CFMG CFMS CFN -ation  
 CFU - Confuse CFUD CFUG CFUS CFUN -ion  
 CHN - Children  
 CKT - Circuit  
 CLJ - College  
 CLR - Clear CLRC -ance CLRD CLRG CLY -ly  
 CM - Come CMG  
 CNG - Change CNGD CNGG CNGS  
 CNL - Control CNLD CNLG CNLB -able CNLS  
 CQ - Correct CQD CQG CQN CQS  
 CR - Care CRF -ful CRG CRS  
 CT - Connect CTD CTG CTN -ion  
 CTF - Certificate CTFN -ion  
 CU - Current CUS CUY -ly C U - See you

CV - Cover  
 CZN - Citizen CZNSP -ship  
 DA - Day DAS  
 DAU - Daughter  
 DCR - December  
 DF - Differ DFC -ence DFD DFG  
 DG - Doing  
 DL - Deliver DLD DLG DLY  
 DMJ - Damage DMJD DMJG  
 DP - Depart DPD DPG DPM -ment  
 DT - Do not  
 DUB - Double DUBD DUBG  
 DUP - Duplicate DUPD DUPG DUPN -tion DUPS  
 DUR - During  
 DV - Divide DVD DVG DVS  
 DVP - Develop DVPD DVPG DVPM -ment  
 DW - Draw DWG DWN DWS  
 DX - Dash  
 DXN - Destruction DXV -ive  
 EA - Each  
 ECJ - Encourage ECJD ECJG ECJM -ment  
 EDU - Educate EDUD EDUG EDN -ion  
 EF - Effect EFD EFG EFV -ive EFVY -ively  
 EFO - Effort EFOS  
 EH - Either  
 EJO - Enjoy EJOD EJOM -ment  
 EMJY - Emergency  
 ENH - Enough  
 EQP - Equip EQM -ment  
 ER - Error ERS ERX - Erroneous ERXY  
 ES - And  
 ESB - Establish ESB D ESBG ESBS ESM -ment  
 ETM - Estimate ETD ETG ETN -tion  
 EV - Ever  
 EVG - Evening  
 EXA - Extra

EXK - Expect EXD EXKG EXKN-ation  
 EY - Every EYB-body EYG-thing EY4 EYO-one  
 FHR - Further FHM -more  
 FM - From  
 FN - Fifteen  
 FND - Friend FN DSP -ship  
 FNT - Front  
 FQ - Frequent FQD FQG FQS FQY  
 FR - Four FRV - Forever  
 FS - First  
 FT - For the  
 FU - Few  
 FV - Five  
 FW - Follow FG-ing FWD  
 FYI - For your information  
 GD - Good GDN-ness GDS  
 GFY - Gratify GFD GFG GFN -cation  
 GG - Going  
 GM - Gentleman GMN-men GMS-man's  
 GN - Gone  
 GNI - Good night  
 GNX - Generous  
 GP - Group GPD GPG GPS  
 GT - Great  
 GTG - Getting  
 GV - Give GVG GVN  
 GVT - Government  
 GX - Great excitement  
 H - Has HB-been HN-not HNB-not been  
 HI - High HIR  
 HND - Hundred  
 HO - Hold HOG-ing HOR-er HOS-s  
 HPN - Happen HPND HPNG HPNS  
 HR - Here HRF -tofore  
 HRD - Heard  
 HSB - Husband

HSP - Hospital  
 HU - House  
 HV - Have HVB -been HVNB -not been HVU -you  
 HW - How HVR -ever  
 ICU - Include ICUD ICUG ICUN -sion ICUS  
 ICW - In connection with  
 IFM - Inform IFMD IFMG IFN -ation  
 IJ - Injury IJD IJG IJS IJX -ous IJY -ously  
 IM - Immediately IMT - Immediate  
 INT - Interest INTD INTG -ing  
 INX - Instruct INXD INXG -ing INXN -ion INXS  
 IP - Improve IPD IPG IPM -ment  
 IUG - Inaugurate IUGD IUGG IUN -ion  
 IUP - Interrupt IUPD IUPG IUPN -ion  
 IVG - Investigate IVD IVGG IVN -ion  
 IW - It was IWB-believed IWC-claimed IWF-  
 feared IWH-held IWJ-alleged IWN-not IWR-  
 reported IWU-understood IWX-expected  
 IX - It is-----Same added words plus 3 more:  
 IXP-possible IXS-said IXT-the  
 JF - Justify JFD JFG JFL-able JFN-cation JFS  
 JG - Judge JGD JGG JGS JGM -ment  
 JN - Join JND JNG JNS  
 KB - Contribute KBD KBG KBN-ion KBS  
 KD - Kind KDN-ness KDY-ly  
 KF - Confer KFC-ence KFD KFE-ee KFG  
 KGU - Congratulate KGD KGG KGN -ion KGNS  
 KM - Communicate KMD KMG KMN-ion KMNS  
 KN - Known  
 KNS - Converse KNSD KNSG KNV-sation KNT-ant  
 KP - Keep  
 KST - Christ KSTN-ian KSTM-mas  
 KU - Continue KUC-ance KUD KUG KUL KUN KUS KUY  
 KVT - Convert KVB KVD KVG KVN-sion KVS KVI-ibly  
 KW - Know KWG KWS  
 LG - Long

LK - Like LKD LKG LKS LKY  
 LO - Low LOR  
 LRN - Learn LRND LRNG  
 LTR - Letter  
 LUK - Look LUKD LUKG LUKS  
 LV - Leave LVG LVS  
 M - More  
 MAB - Maybe  
 MD - Made  
 MDA - Monday  
 MDT - Moderate MDN -ion MDY -ly  
 MEM - Member MEMSP-ship  
 MF - Manufacture MFD MFG MFR MFS MFY  
 MG - Manage MGD MGG MGM MGR MGS  
 MH - Much  
 MIN - Minute MINS  
 MK - Make MKG MKR MKS  
 MKT - Market MKTD MKTG  
 MMY - Memory MMZ -ize  
 MO - Month MOS MOY-ly  
 MRD - Married MRJ-iage  
 MS - Most MSY  
 MSD - Missed MSG  
 MSJ - Message MSJR  
 MSK - Mistake MSKN  
 MSR - Measure MSRSD MSRG MSRM -ment  
 MT - Meet MTG MTS  
 MTR - Matter MOF -of fact  
 MV - Move MVD MVG MVL -able MVR MVS  
 MYN - Million  
 N - Not  
 NBR - Neighbor NEH -hood  
 ND - Need NDF -ful NDG NDY -y  
 NEC - Necessary NCT -itate NECY-ily NCY-ity  
 NF - Notify NFD NFG NFN -cation  
 NI - Night NIY -ly

NL - Natural NLY NLZ -ize NLZN -ization  
 NR - Near NRD NRG NRY -ly  
 NTG - Nothing  
 NU - New NUS - News  
 NUM - Number NUMD NUMG NUMS  
 NUP - Newspaper  
 NV - Never NVL - Nevertheless  
 NVX - Nervous  
 NW - Now  
 NWG - Notwithstanding  
 NX - Next NXK -week  
 OB - Obtain OBD OBG OBS  
 OC - O'clock  
 OD - Order ODD ODG ODS ODY -ly  
 OFL - Official OFLY  
 OFN - Often  
 OFR - Offer OFD OFG  
 OG - Organize OGD OGG OGN -ation OGS  
 OJ - Object OJD OJG OJN-ion OJL-able OJV-ive  
 ONR - Owner ONRS  
 OPD - Opened OPG  
 OPR - Operator OPRD OPRG OPRN - Operation  
 OS - Oppose OSD OSG OSN -ition OSS  
 OTR - Other  
 OWZ - Otherwise  
 PAP - Paper  
 PB - Probable PBY PBTY -ility  
 PBM - Problem  
 PCD - Proceed PCDR -ure PCDG  
 PCP - Participate PCPD PCPG PCPN -ion  
 PD - Paid  
 PEO - People  
 PF - Prefer PFC-ence PFD PFG PFL-able PFLY-ably  
 PFT - Perfect PFTD PFTG PFY -ly  
 PGM - Program PGMD PGMG  
 PHA - Philadelphia

PJT - Project PJTD PJTG PJTN -ion  
 PKJ - Package PKJD PKJG  
 PKU - Peculiar PKULY -ly PKUY -ity  
 PLS - Please PLSD PLSG PLSR -ure  
 PMT - Permit PMTD PMTG  
 PNC - Pronounce PNCD PNCG PNCN-Pronunciation  
 POG - Postage  
 PON - Position  
 POS - Possible POSY -ibly POY - ibility  
 POX - Police POXM -men POXN -men  
 PP - Postpone PPD PPG PPM -ment  
 PPR - Prepare PPRD PPRG PPRN-ation PPRY-atory  
 PSK - Prospect PSKD PSKG PSKV -ive PSKS  
 PSN - Person PSNL -el or -al  
 PT-Present PTC-ence PTD PTG PTM-ment PTN-ation  
 PU - Public PUCY -ity  
 PUH - Publish PUD PUG PUHR PUN -ication  
 PVX - Previous PVXY  
 PW - Power PWF -ful PWS PWY -fully  
 PX - Price PXD PXG PXS  
 QA - Qualify QAD QAG QAN -ication  
 QK - Quick QKY  
 QR - Quarter QRD QRG QRS QRY -ly  
 QSN - Question QSD QSG  
 R - Are  
 RAF - Ratify RAFD RAFG RAFN -cation RAFS  
 RC - Receive RCD RCG RCR RCS RCN-Reception  
 RDO - Radio  
 RDX - Ridiculous RDXY -ly  
 REQ - Request REQD REQG REQS  
 RF - Refer RFC -ence RFD RFG RFL -al  
 RFU - Refuse RFUD RFUG RFUL -al  
 RG - Regular RGS RGY -ly  
 RHT - Right RHTS RHTY -ly  
 RK - Recover RKD RKG RKY  
 RKO - Record RKOD RKO

RKZ - Recognize RKZD RKZG RKN -tion  
 RLF - Relief RLVD - Relieved  
 RLS - Release RLSD RLSG  
 RMB - Remember RMC - Remembrance RMBD RMBG  
 RMK - Remark RMKD RMKG RMX - Remarks RML -able  
 RN - Reason RND RNG RNL-able RNY-ably  
 RP - Report RPD RPG RPR RPS  
 RPT - Represent RPTD RPTG RPTN-ation RPTS  
 RPV - Representative RPVS  
 RQR - Require RQD RQG RQM -ment RQS  
 RSU - Resume RSUD RSUG RSUN -ption  
 RSV - Reserve RSV D RSVG RSVN -ation  
 RT - Are the  
 RTN - Return RTD RTG  
 RU - Are you  
 RV - Remove RVD RVG RVL -al  
 RVR - River  
 RVU - Review RVUD RVUG RVUL -al  
 RX - Recommend RXD RXG RXN -ation RXS  
 RZ - Result RZD RZG RZT -ant  
 SCL - School  
 SD - Should SDB -be SDNE -not be  
 SDY - Sunday  
 SED - Said  
 SES - Says  
 SF - Satisfy SFD SFG SFN -faction SFY -actory  
 SH - Such  
 SIG or SG - Signature  
 SIU - Situate SIUD SIUG SIUN -ion  
 SJ - Subject SJD SJG SJN -ion  
 SK - Success SKL -ful SKR SKV-ive SKY -fully  
 SKJ - Schedule SKJD SKJG  
 SM - Some SMB-body SMG-thing SMH-how  
 SM4-where SMT-time SMW-what  
 SMP - Sympathy SMC -etic SMZ -ize  
 SN - Soon SNR -er

SNC - Since  
 SOU - South SOUN -ern  
 SP - Ship SPD SPG SPM -ment  
 SPFY - Specify SPFC -ific SPFD SPFG SPFN-cation  
 SPL - Special  
 SPO - Suppose SPOD SPOG SPON -ition  
 SPZ - Surprise SPZD SPZG SPZY -ingly  
 SRX - Serious SRXY  
 STA - State STAD STAG STM -ment  
 STC - Sentence STCD STCG  
 SU - Sure  
 SUG - Suggest SUGD SUGG SUGN SUGS  
 SUY - Saturday  
 SV - Seven  
 SVC - Service  
 SVL - Several  
 T - The  
 TBL - Trouble TBLD TBLG TBLS  
 TFC - Terrific  
 TFK - Traffic  
 TFR - Transfer TFRD TFRG  
 TG - Thing TGS -s  
 TGH - Telegraph TGM -gram TGY - Telegraphy  
 TGR - Together  
 THD - Thursday  
 THO - Though  
 TRU - Through  
 THR - Their  
 TK - Take TKG TKN TKR  
 TKT - Ticket  
 TM - Them  
 TMP - Temperature  
 TMT - Transmit TMD TMG TMN - Transmission  
 TMX - Tremendous  
 TN - Then  
 TND - Thousand

TNI - Tonight  
 TNK - Think  
 TNV - Tentative TNVY -ly  
 TP - Transport TPD TPG TPN -ation  
 TPH - Telephone TPHD TPHG  
 TPY - Temporary  
 TR - There  
 TRE - Three  
 TRM - Terminate TRMD TRMG TRML -al TRMN -ion  
 TS - This TSM-morning TSP-afternoon TSV-evening  
 TT - That  
 TTT - That the  
 TUF - Tough  
 TUY - Tuesday  
 TW - Tomorrow TWM-mng TWP-afn TWV-evening  
 TWY - Twenty  
 TX - This is TXN -not TXT -the  
 TY - They  
 U - You UC -see  
 UF - Unfortunate UFY -ly  
 UK - Understand UKD -stood UKG-ing UKY-ably  
 UKN - Unknown  
 UN - Until  
 UNU - Unusual UNUY  
 UR - Your U R - You are  
 USFY - Unsatisfactory  
 UUY - University  
 VB - Variable VBY -ly  
 VF - Verify VFD VFG VFN -cation  
 VKN - Vacation  
 VSB - Visible VSBY -ly VSBTY -bility  
 VST - Visit VSD VSG VSR  
 VU - View VUD VUG VUS  
 VY - Very  
 VYJ - Voyage  
 W - With WIN - Within WW - With which

WA - Way (Originally "with a")  
 WB - Will be WNB -not be  
 WC - Welcome WCD WCG  
 WD - Would WDB -be  
 WDA - Wednesday  
 WDF - Wonderful WDFY -ly  
 WEA - Weather  
 WF - Wife  
 WG - Wrong WGD WGG WGF -ful WGY - Wrongly  
 WH - Which  
 WI - Will WIG -ing WB - Will be WNB -not be  
 WK - Week WKY  
 WL - Well  
 WN - When  
 WNV - Whenever  
 WO - Who  
 WOT - Without  
 WR - Were  
 WRD - Word WRDD WRDG  
 WRI - Write WRG -ing WRN -ten  
 WRK - Work WRKD WRKG WRX - Works  
 WSN - Western  
 WT - What  
 WTR - Whether  
 WTV - Whatever  
 WX - Wait WXD WXG WXR - Waiter  
 WY - Why  
 XC - Excite XCD XCG XCM -ment  
 XD - Exceed XDD XDG XDY -ingly  
 XH - Exhaust XHD XHG XHN -ion XHV -ive  
 XJ - Explain XJD XJG XJN -anation XJY -atory  
 XL - Excel XLC XLCY XLD XLG XLT XLY -ently  
 XTD - Extend XTDD XTG XTN XTV-ive XTY -sively  
 Y - Year YS -s  
 YA - Yesterday YAM -mng YAP -afn YAV -evg  
 YO - Years old

The Bruckner edition contains about 6,000 groups. This list contains about 1,190 groups, about 730 translated, about 460 untranslated.

The only way in which this useful short hand can be kept viable is through its use in CW QSOs between radio amateurs. It is not suitable for international use for the obvious reason that it is based on the English language. The large press associations no longer use Morse telegraph operators, so, we hams are the only ones who can keep it alive.

It is fun. Try it. You will like it!

The Bruckner revision instructions were not too well worded, so I have changed the wording, but not the sense of his instructions, and am quoting some of them below. They are not applicable to radio amateurs, but may provide some insight into the origin of, and the original use of Phillips code.

1. To send code at top speed defeats its purpose. Indeed, mechanical ability seems a negligible factor in moving the report, for the moderately slow sender, of even temper and precise signals puts no strain on the receiver and, therefore provokes no breaking. 2. Code should be well spaced, so that the receiver is required to make no effort in its translation. Where the receiver is forced to solve a puzzle in the way of improper or badly used code, the context of the story is lost and a break usually follows. 9. When the receiver breaks

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on a coded word, the sender should spell out the coded word, then repeat the code. 11. When sending a difficult word or a proper name, the sender should pause briefly, then send the word or name in a moderately slow, but steady pace, without repetition. Paradoxical as it is, it isn't the time one makes but the time one loses that really counts. (We are seldom concerned with lost time. Our aims should be to send precise signals, space properly between letters and between words, and pace the sending speed according to the receiver's ability.)

We can intersperse the ARRL abbreviations with this short hand with little or no confusion; however, there is one ARRL abbreviation that I prefer not to use. The figure "4" is the Phillips code for "where". Sometimes "4" is combined with letters to form a code word, as in AY4 - Anywhere, and EY4 - Everywhere, but BF, not B4, is the Phillips code for "before". If a receiver stops a sender for a moment, then just says "GA", the sender would say "4" if not sure just where he is to resume the transmission.

In the early days of sending press reports via telegraph lines, most of the reporters were Morse operators. These reporters would give each story a title with a "By line", as is still the practice, but they would sign such a report "30", meaning "End of this report".

In American Morse, 30 is ...-. \_\_\_, but when it means "End of all transmission from this station", it is usually transmitted ...--.