

# CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy One Years: 1944 -2015

*The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.*

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## SILENT HEROES

By Ed Whitman, K2MFY

*Newsday* recently ran a series of articles honoring a number of Long Island veterans who saw action during WWII. In the August 8<sup>th</sup> issue, the name of Howard Liebman jumped out from a printed page. Long time members of the GARC remember Howie, W2QUV, who was active in the club and is still a member. According to the *Newsday* article, Howie was a crew member during raids on Tokyo and flew 35 missions from bases in China and the North Mariana Islands. His unit's missions were simple and deadly, planned to cripple Japan's ability to fight the war, by bombing its cities where factories large and small were producing aircraft parts and munitions. Later in the war Howie became a radar operator with the Army's 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force. After the war Howie used his skills at Grumman helping to develop naval radar countermeasures. Over the years I dealt with Howie, especially during Field Days, I never knew about his heroic activities. As I completed reading the *Newsday* article I realized that Howie was a silent hero.

That got me thinking. I was a child during the WWII years. My personal encounters with soldiers were minimal; in fact, besides Howie I can only touch on my remembrance of three other heroes. One was George Commando, who worked with my father in Manhattan for over 30 years. I remember that George walked with a severe limp. He worked in shipping and was usually on his feet in the back office. Being a precocious kid, I asked George about his limp. He told me that he got injured during the D-Day invasion at Omaha beach, when he charged out onto the Normandy Beach. It was appropriate that George's last name was *Commando*. He never spoke about his war action during the limited time that I worked in my dad's office. He did not rely on any crutches to alleviate his pain. The last time I saw George was when he and his wife attended my wedding in 1962.

Another example was one of my mother's friends from our Brooklyn neighborhood, was Mary Walter. My mother told me that Mary has left Germany in the late 1930s with her two young daughters. In 1946 my mother attended the wedding of Mary's older daughter, Marga. I was later introduced to Marga's husband, Joe Jablanski. Joe was a war veteran who fought in the South Pacific. The places he described to me reminded me of the song "Far away places with strange sounding names." Joe told me that he had fought on Iwo Jima as an officer in the Marine Corps. He admitted that it was a horrible experience but never spoke of details. He gave me a little marine insignia pin which I wore everywhere. Months later he gave me a Japanese "rising sun" flag. I don't know if Joe saw action in Europe but he also gave me a

German cloth arm band. It was bright red with a circle in the center. Inside the circle was a swastika symbol. I did not realize what that symbol meant at that time. One afternoon, when playing with friends, I wore the German armband on my arm. My mother screamed at me to remove it. I only fully understood many years later and the arm band disappeared from my war souvenir collection.

My last encounter with a war veteran was Marty Miller, NN2C. I met Marty at a GARC meeting some time in 1965. He was 15 years older than me, but we had common hobbies. A few years later I got Marty to join the LIDXA. We and both of our wives began to socialize at holiday parties. Marty and I both had *Apple IIe* computers. We joined the *Apple Power Users Group*, which met in Jericho. When the group moved to Massapequa I drove Marty to the new meeting site. During our long drives we discussed personal issues. Marty told me that he had enlisted in the Army at the age of 20, at the start of WWII. He was trained as an Army Ranger and participated in the D-day invasion of Normandy. Marty's group's function was to propel up large grappling hooks to the tops of cliffs, attempting to secure footing for rangers, so that they could attack the German soldiers who were on the hilltops. It was difficult for me to imagine Marty, now an elderly paunchy bespectacled man, as an Army ranger charging past the bloody beaches to secure a pathway to kill German snipers; but such is the measure of a silent hero.

In the year 1998 a film called "Saving Private Ryan" appeared in theaters. I offered to go with Marty to see that movie. His wife was undergoing treatments for cancer at the time, so I figured that he might want to see a movie to get his mind off his troubles at that time. Marty looked at me with glazed eyes and replied, "I lived through that landing and do not want to re-live those horrible events again."

After Marty's wife died I urged Marty to keep himself busy and to run for office at radio clubs.. He did that with great enthusiasm and for a number of years he became president of the GARC and the LIDXA. His war efforts were not forgotten. In 1999, commemorating the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day invasion, Marty was part of a group of Long Island veterans who were awarded an honorary medal by the French consul for their bravery during the invasion of Normandy. My wife and I attended this ceremony, along with Marty's children and grandchildren, at the Air Power Museum in Farmingdale.

As time passed Marty's health deteriorated and he passed away in 2006. My wife and I attended his funeral and there were a number of veterans and public dignitaries in attendance. A bag-pipe and fife service was held at the funeral hall. Marty's family set up an area where there were numerous pictures of Marty in his Army Ranger uniform and a compilation of his medals and awards. His obituary indicated that he was also a Korean War veteran.

When *The History Channel* highlights World Wars I and II, I realize that for the most part many heroes were not born to be heroes. Unlike men like Eisenhower, Patton and MacArthur, who came from generations of military leaders, there are many American unsung heroes. They are the guys who rose to the occasion and dodged the bullets on Normandy or crawled through the volcanic ashes of Iwo Jima. Bravery is forged by courage under fire. To me the few episodes relate as some of my memories of silent heroes from America's "greatest" generation.

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV**

For most of the existence of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club, meetings were held locally to the facility, and club meetings were timed to match company dismissal times. For that reason general meetings were always held at 5:30 PM. Similarly the board meetings have been held in close proximity to the facility during lunch.

In recent years, that model has weakened as fewer and fewer club members remained working for the company. Last year it hit zero. Now not a single employee goes to meetings.

The logical next step has now occurred. I started a job working at a new power substation near the Verrazano Bridge on Staten Island. There is absolutely no way for the president of the GARC to attend board meetings now. Attendance at general meetings is physically possible, although at an emotional cost of a stressful long drive in incredible traffic, trying to arrive on time.

The old model no longer works. Anybody have any suggestions about what we should do?  
Ed, WB2EAV

## **GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 10/21/2015**

**By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was called to order by Gordon at 5:30 PM.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV**

Finances are in good shape.

### **REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB**

Gordon heard from Bill questioning the status of the repeaters,

### **NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK**

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz had 1 check-in.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had 2 check-ins.

Sunday morning net at 7:30 AM on 7.289 MHz had 0 check-ins.

### **VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV**

Three applicants applied: One passed The Extra Class exam, One passed the General Class Exam, One failed the Technician Class exam.

Three VEs were present: Ken KC2YRL, George WB2IKT, Ed WB2EAV

### **GARC NETS: 40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays**

Net Controller: Karen, W2ABK

**2 Meters (repeaters) Thursdays: 146.745 MHz (-600 kHz) at 8:15 PM**

**145.330 MHz (-600 kHz) at 8:30 PM. Tone for both repeaters: 136.5 Hz.**

GARC Net Controller Karen, W2ABK     **ARES/RACES NETS: Mondays.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussing upcoming Holiday Party.

### **MEETINGS**

General Meetings of the GARC are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM, at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale. Driving directions and map can be obtained from <http://www.mapquest.com>. It is suggested that the GARC web site be checked to be certain of meeting location, which may change after this newsletter is distributed. Board meetings are held at Haypath Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon *Meetings may be cancelled or relocated. Check the GARC website.*

### **WEBSITE**

The GARC web site can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/wa2lqo>. Webmaster is Pat Masterson, KE2LJ. Pictures of GARC activities, archives of newsletters, roster of members, and other information about the GARC may be found there. The membership roster has not been updated to delete Silent Keys and to enter new e-mail addresses for remaining members and friends.

## LARGE AIRCRAFT NEWS

First there is some good news. Northrop Grumman is working on a contract to manufacture a new stealth bomber, the specification details of which are top secret and cannot be discussed. The cost is also secret and is not being accounted for in our national budget. (WB2EAV- None of the work will be done here)

What I see as bad news is that China is now in the process of building a medium range commercial transport aircraft for initial use by COMMAC, a Chinese Airline Company. This will eventually compete with Boeing's 737 and Europe's similar range Airbus. Most people who have been following the stock market have wondered why it has taken China so long to produce its own aircraft. The Chinese have the capital (both government and private), the labor force and the raw materials that are required and they have learned about aircraft manufacturing and the electronic hardware and software required by working on American subcontracts. The final clue that China would start making aircrafts came when we learned that the Chinese had built a large airfield in a new city of central China, where manufacturing had never been done before. All major manufacturing was formerly accomplished in eastern coastal cities. The large runway airfield will obviously be used for flight test programs in addition to being a regularly scheduled air transportation airport.

This news is significant because Boeing's airplane sales to China and the Far East are the largest ticket exports that the US has which can attempt to help balance payments for our imports. If China can build commercial aircraft it won't be long when they may also build military fighters, tankers and bombers as well. And then China, along with Russia can saber rattling, along with the USA, as well prepared contenders for WWII. Let us all hope that no nation gets trigger happy.

China has long understood the danger of overpopulation, as it has the largest population of any nation on our planet. The Chinese have enforced regulations that have only permitted married couples to have one child. This has presented a problem because more male children than females were being born since sonograms could predetermine sex. The Chinese also now recognize that they are having more elderly retired people than young people in their work force. Thus they will now allow each couple to have two children. Hmmm...Maybe they plan to hire more belly buttons to work on government projects because this is another way to copy US policies when there is a boom in government spending projects.

## PUZZLE

*Last month's question was:-*

What is the voltage when 12 Nickel-Cadmium batteries are connected in series?

- A. 12 volts
- B. 12.6 volts
- C. 15 volts
- D. 72 volts

*Answer:* The correct answer is C. Unlike alkaline cells, which are rated at 1.5 VDC, nickel-cadmium cells operate at 1.25 VDC.  $12 \times 1.25 = 15$  Volts.

*This month's question is:-*

The speed of a series wound DC motor varies with:

- A. The number of commutator bars
- B. The number of slip rings
- C. The loads applied to the motor
- D. The direction of rotation.

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**Newsletter**

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**GARC VE Exams**

We normally proctor exams for all classes of ham licenses on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM. The exams may be given at various locations. Ham Exams are - Technician, Element 2, General Element 3, Amateur Extra Class, Element 4. Time and location may be changed, and sessions may be cancelled if not applicants make appointments. The fee for 2015 is \$14. All applicants must pre register with Ed Gellender [wb2eav@yahoo.com](mailto:wb2eav@yahoo.com). All new applicants should be aware that they must use their Social Security number on the application form if they have not gotten an FRN number. Applicant for an upgrade must bring both their present license and a photo copy of it. All applicants should bring picture ID such as a driver's license. Study material may be obtained from ARRL-VEC at <http://www.arrl.org>, W5YI-VEC at <http://www.W5YI.org> or other VECs. All VECs use and update the same Q&A pools.

**Editorial**

I sense that many of the readers of this newsletter may be getting tired of reading my autobiography. This month the front page article has been submitted by Ed Whitman, K2MFY which is certainly a change from my own experienced egotistically edited electronics essays. I did not continue with my story in this issue but I hope to continue next month. I humbly hope that my future installments will prove to be more interesting than my description of my employment at the Emerson Radio and TV factory.

We need more GARC members to sign into the WAG nets. Karen keeps running the nets whenever she is at home but few of us sign in. Perhaps it is because there has been a lack of reporting that the repeaters are working well enough to use in our meeting minutes or because the net schedules conflict with sports or political events on TV. I cannot hear Karen on the 40 Meter net but she can hear me, thus I must admit that I am not so enthusiastic about being there on many Sunday mornings when I sleep late or it is my turn to prepare breakfast. I run over 600 Watts PEP on 40 and have no trouble signing in to other nets but I must also admit that my enthusiasm has faded because I am more active communicating on the Internet than by ham radio. My other hobbies include: making wine, reading magazines, and watching TV. Those hobbies may not seem to have a direct connection with ham radio but occasionally they do. I can use them to approach viewpoints that you won't find in "QST" or other ham club newsletters and to avoid stuff that I find relatively unimportant. I was told to keep my mind busy; maybe because if I don't use it I'll lose it.

Bob w2ilp (I Like Peace)

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**EVOLUTION REVISITED**

On both the National Geographic Channel and on a Japanese TV Channel there was a program about a large area of Tokyo, Japan that is now a Japanese National Park. This area was completely leveled and cleared of all plants and trees. The program showed that over a period of more than 50 years, new trees, bushes and flowers arose, most of which were not planted by humans, but arose by natural evolution; by seeds and pollen that seemed to come from nowhere. This natural evolution was even more overwhelming when bugs, butterflies and birds mysteriously returned to the area, along with small mammals. All of this was recorded, over the time that it occurred, by expert Japanese video photographers. It showed what seems to be beautiful natural evolution occurring in a modern world barren area that is a section of the modern city of Tokyo.

Now the Japanese never spoke about why this large area was barren, so I asked a Japanese friend. He admitted that the Japanese did not want to discuss it because it was an atrocity of WWII. They don't want to discuss atrocities that they committed during WWII either and also leave that history blank in the history text books that their young people get in school.

The truth is that that part of Tokyo was formerly a residential area of small Japanese homes with wooden frames and rice paper walls. It was bombed by incendiary (phosphorus) bombs which burned everything down to the ground. Living in those homes were children, women and elderly who were not in any Japanese military service. The soldiers and sailors were away in training camps or fighting the war. This was not an industrial area. The bombing was done in an attempt to break the Japanese morale. The Japanese people are used to natural and man-made disasters. They silently always recover. ...and that is the rest of this story. --w2ilp--