

# CQ de WA2LQO

**Seventy Three Years: 1944 -2017**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2017 VOLUME 90 NUMBER 9**

**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 20, 5:30 PM ELLSWORTH ALLEN PARK IN FARMINGDALE**

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## **How Ham Radio prepared me to be an Engineer** **by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP (Continued from August 2017)**

*I again continue telling about my experiences as a GI at the 181st Signal Depot in Young Dong Po, Korea.*

Army life in South Korea was not as bad as some might expect. In fact it was much better for most of us grunts than Army life in the states had been. So why did many GIs develop serious mental and addictive problems when stationed overseas? I will try to explain why from my own observations. Enlisted men (but not most officers) had no privacy because they were forced to live in barracks or tents that put them in very close contact with each other. The only other possibility was to live off post. We could not bring our American family dependents with us, so living off post would usually mean living with a Korean girlfriend. Fraternizing with Korean nationals was against Army policy as well as against religious policies but it could not be denied. During combat Korean prostitutes had saved the lives of many Americans by hiding them when American troops lost battles and American squads were stranded so that they could not rejoin their companies. Most of the men did not care to live with Koreans because of health risks due to poor sanitation. Americans could not eat Korean food or drink Korean water without getting dysentery. If they chose to live off post they would have to stay close to their Army bases so that they could take out food and drinks from an Army mass halls. The risk of getting VD was greater with one-night stands than with having a full time girlfriend but a fulltime girl partner would be expensive as well as developing responsibilities which usually come with long term emotional involvements. The men in our tent and I stayed in our tent and did not live off base for all of those sensible reasons as well as religious convictions. There were no local American female soldiers at that time. The only female Americans in Yong Dong Po were a few nurses who worked in another compound at the Army hospital.

Unlike duty in the US we all had houseboy servants. We did not have to make our own beds, shine our own boots or bring our own clothing to an authorized laundry and seamstress. The houseboys performed those tasks for us. As a group, we chipped in a small weekly sum of MPCs to pay our houseboy. If we wanted any special services we could tip our houseboy as individuals. We all had to wear only the solid green fatigues and winter clothes that we were issued. [A recent portrayal of GIs on the "History Channel" erroneously showed camouflaged randomly spotted military clothing being used during Korean warfare and occupation. I think that the spotted uniforms were probably first used in Vietnam. I know that they were used during the Gulf War.] The GIs who wanted to be recognized as individuals did something that was never permitted in the US. Although they could not wear anything that was not officially issued they were permitted to alter what they wore. I never did so myself because I did not want to spend any money just to look different for vanity purposes. Some GIS had all the folds in their fatigues seemed so as to exaggerate them. What they did to their caps was very humorous. Some had their caps starched and blocked up like high smoke stack hats. In our tent there was a short pudgy guy who claimed to be a high school physics teacher. He said he was only 22 years old but he looked much older. To add to a stereotypical cultured appearance he had his cap converted into a floppy beret. Some had dragons or pin-up girls painted on the backs of their jackets as well as home town names.

Now for the worst part of my duty in Korea: It was *guard duty*. I said that we had no privacy in an above paragraph, but when on guard duty we had the opposite, which is solitary confinement. We had to be on duty for 4 hour "on" and 8 hours "off" shifts; totaling 24 hours. The shifts could be scheduled to begin at any time of the day or week. When on duty we carried loaded semi-automatic carbines. We could not read books or magazines. We could not talk to anyone. We could not eat or fall asleep. Guard duty was serious. The threat of

North Korean gorillas never seemed very great, but we were mainly guarding our compound from desperate Koreans who would risk their lives in order to try to steal anything that they might take from our signal depot or from us. All who ranked below staff sergeant were expected to serve as guards. A roster of the guards for coming weeks was posted on a bulletin board in the front of the orderly room. Everyone had to memorize the guard oath. I don't remember it all, but it started "I will walk my post in a military manner...". Actually only a few guards were required to walk and walking guards were mainly required to walk during night shifts. All the other guarding of our compound took place from guard towers or at the main gate. There were wooden guard towers every 300 feet or so around the depot compound. They overlooked fences which had coiled barbed wires on their tops. To get to serve in the towers you had to climb up a 50 foot ladder and enter the tower top through a trap door. In the winter we were able to bring a small electric heater up to the top but there was no way to cool oneself in the hot summer when you might get invaded by mosquitos or fleas. Our home compound was surrounded by Korean activities. Across from our motor pool was a company of Korean soldiers (called ROKs). We could hear them shout when they were in formation and being inspected by their officers. The officers often whipped or smacked the men with long leather gloves when the men failed to follow their orders. On another fence side, near our living quarters, there was a group of shacks in which Korean women and children lived. Their men were probably dead or living in the ROK camps. We could see the women nursing their kids and living simple domestic lives. On a third side there was a brothel which consisted of a number of wooden buildings surrounding a rock garden which had a swimming pool in its center. In winter it became an ice pond. The forth fence had a gate check point in its middle that had to also be guarded. It was the main entrance to our compound. It bordered on what the Koreans called a "road." It was a gravel unpaved street. This "road" was maintained by road gangs of Koreans: old men, women and even children. They sifted gravel through screens and kept replacing gravel that washed away by rain, ice and use by heavy vehicles. The Korean people paid no tax but their local leaders expected them to maintain the roads. This sort of "voluntary" labor still exists in North Korea and in rural parts of China but it has been outlawed in South Korea by UN regulations which also eventually declared the unpaid Korean Service Corp (KSC) illegal.

If we were to see anyone climbing over a fence we were expected to yell, "Halt! Who goes there?" If we did not get a reply and someone continued going over the wall we were ordered to fire a shot in the air. If someone continued going over a fence we were ordered to fire to kill.

I found out that I was on the roster to serve out of turn as a tower guard. I had just served the previous week. The week that I had now been ordered to serve included the Thanksgiving holiday. This was unusual because we were supposed to be exempt from serving guard duty for at least two months after having served. I complained to the first sergeant. He said that he did not write the roster and he could not correct it. I would have to see Captain Crawley (The CO) if I had a complaint. I'll tell you what happened to me next month.

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

I've been president of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club for something like ten years now, since my predecessor (Pat Masterson KE2LJ) retired from Northrop Grumman and moved away. As the only active club member who met the requirement of senior club officers being company employees, I inherited the position without being elected. As such, I have always considered myself a caretaker president. However, no one has ever challenged me in the annual elections, so I have had to assume that the membership is content with things the way they are .... or that no one else wants the job.

Since the departure of Northrop Grumman from the island, the employee restriction no longer applies. In addition, the departure of the company led to my working in the city. Now, getting to club functions on time has been a nightmare. I've come to dread the meetings.

Now that the newsletter editor insists on doing a complete rewrite of my president's note, I consider that a direct challenge. Since I was never elected as president, and can't take the stress commuting to meetings anymore, I cheerfully concede victory to the challenger and look forward to stepping down soon. In my first act of deference to the new regime, I am discontinuing my pre-publication review of newsletters.

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD/GENERAL MEETING 8/16/2017**

**By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was called to order by Karen at 5 PM.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV**

Finances continue to be in good shape.

**REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB**

Repeaters are working.

**NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK**

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz had 0 check ins.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had 3 check ins and 1 guest.

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

**VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV- VEC**

Three applicants applied for Technician exam and one for Extra Class exam. All passed.

Three VEs were present: Bill Fastenau, WB2QGZ, Ken Maltz, KC2YRJ, Matt Bevin, KD2EXM

**GARC NETS: Net Controller Karen W2ABK 40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays**

**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.**

**ARES/RACES NETS: Mondays.**

**PROGRAM**

Our 2017 Summer Picnic was held at the LaCasa Restaurant at Crab Meadow Beach. 14 people attended. We met at 5 PM outdoors on the patio for cocktails. We were seated inside at 6 PM. Most dinners started at the salad bar. We ordered various pasta, seafood, or veal dinners on separate checks. We finished at about 8:30 PM after some stayed to watch the beautiful sunset on the sound.

Ed Whitman and his wife Linda did not attend the Summer Picnic because they were celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Puenta Cana, Dominican Republic, accompanied by their 3 daughters, son-in-law and 5 grandchildren.

**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. Please inform Pat Masterson if you need to delete, update or edit your roster information.

**MEETINGS**

Board and General Meetings are now combined. Unless otherwise notified they start at 5:30 PM at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale.

**PUZZLE**

*This month's puzzle is:-*

What are the elements of a unijunction transistor?

- A. Base 1, base 2 and emitter
- B. Gate, cathode and anode
- C. Gate, base 1 and base 2
- D. Gate source and sink

*Last month's puzzle was:-*

Who developed the super-heterodyne radio receiver circuit?

- A. Marconi
- B. Tesla
- C. Armstrong
- D. Fessenden

*Answer:-*The correct answer is C.

## Numbers? Constants? Atoms? Waves? Quantum?

(Continued from July 2017)

Lise Meitner worked closely with Otto Hahn in Germany. Fermi working in Italy, tried to irradiate one element after another to make them radioactive. When he got to uranium Element 93 he came up with a strange array of particles that he could not identify from the atomic particles that had been identified by using Bohr's configuration of protons, electrons and neutrons. When Hahn and Meitner heard of Fermi's work, Meitner became more interested in collaborating with Hahn. It required both the skills of a Physicist and Chemist. It required identifying new heavy elements that did not exist in nature when only a few synthesized atoms were available for analysis. An additional German scientist named Fritz Strassman joined them. They published 8 productive articles between 1934 to 1936. Fermi admitted that the Germans had gone beyond his work by not only confirming it but by getting stranger and more complicated results that looked like lanthanum and radium based upon their chemical behavior. A series of decay from one isotope to another is produced during experiments that are called a decay series. In 1935 Hahn and Meitner published a paper about the decay series of Thorium. Irene Joliet Curie did not credit them on a paper that she published on that same subject. Hahn was angry because he wanted recognition for work that was being done in Germany in the increasing hostile environment that made working with Lise Meitner who was Jewish a political risk. Because they were both woman Joliet-Curie could debate with Meitner in a way that would seem inappropriate if they were gentlemen. Meitner felt that her teams work was better than that of the French. The French initially claimed to have produced a thorium isotope which the Germans had never seen. The French had to admit that they were in error about thorium. The German team then began working to produce radium and barium, which always separated out of compounds together. Just when their work started to get more interesting the team had to split up..

Lise Meitner was an Austrian citizen who thought that the German edicts that prohibited Jews from working in Scientific Labs would not apply to her. She also felt that she would be granted the right to continue working with Hahn because her work was so important to Germany. When the NAZIs annexed Austria in 1938, and made it a part of Germany Meitner had to flee Germany. She had waited too long and that resulted in making her escape extremely dangerous. On September 15, 1935 Nuremberg laws were passed that denied all German Jews of citizenship. The NAZIs declared that "German Physics" was superior to "Jewish Physics". Nuclear biologist, Max Delbruck, who had been an assistant to Meitner, was not Jewish but he had to conduct meetings in his mother's house because he would be accused of believing in "Jewish Physics" if he spoke openly in German institutions. Also in 1935 Bohr, who was in Sweden arranged a Rockefeller grant for Meitner to leave Germany and spend a year in Copenhagen but Hahn urged Meitner to turn it down because he needed her contributions. However, unlike Planck, Hahn did not want to ask the NAZIs to make a special case for any Jewish scientists. Many scientists throughout Europe wanted to help Meitner escape because they understood the importance of her work, but NAZIs did not want Meitner to leave Germany and go to any neutral nation where she might work against the interest of Germany Dutch physics, Dirk Coster knew that Meitner needed to leave Germany right away so he began to make plans for her to escape to te Netherlands, not knowing that the Swedes were also making plans for her to get to Sweden. She learned that she could not go to Sweden although it was her first choice, because her visa was not in order. She would have to go to Holland, although there was no offer of employment there sat that time. Secret messages were sent to the The Hague, where the Dutch Ministry of Justice had received an appea for Meitner's entry papers. Meitner did not know the plan. She was told to pack up only two small bags and pretend that she was going on a short vacation trip. Hahn gave Meitner a diamond ring that belonged to his mother to use if it was necessary to bribe guards. That was the last thing that he gave her because he never credited her for the 40 years he had worked on atomic projects with her. She managed get through a frightful experience when German guards checked passports at every railroad station on the train she was on. Coster sent Hahn a coded telegram when Meitner arrived safely in Holland. It said that a baby had arrived safely. Coster received congratulations from the international scientific community thanking him for rescuing Meitner. Physicist Wolfgang Pali wired from Switzerland saying : You have made yourself as famous for the abduction of Lise Meitner as for the discovery of hafnium!

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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, and Amateur Extra Class: Element 4. Time and location may be changed, and sessions may be cancelled if no applicants make appointments. The fee for 2016 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 write their Social Security number on the application form if they have not gotten an FRN number. Applicants 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 saw a TV segment of "60 minutes" on Sunday. It introduced a sheriff who had the honesty to admit that half of the men in the prison that he was supervising did not belong in prison. They were there because they were too poor to pay fines or to pay for good lawyers. They were there because they were unemployed and unable to find any legitimate work. Some were there because they were awaiting trial. Most were there because they had been convicted more than once of crimes such as possession of drugs. The sheriff said that most of the men who did not have severe mental problems needed to learn skills so that they could get jobs instead of constantly returning to prison. Programs were established to teach the men how to play chess, which is valuable because it helps them to plan ahead instead of acting compulsively. Programs were run by a chef to teach cooking skills, a nurse to teach health provider skills, and an engineer to teach technical skills. Now I know why the FCC is asking applicants for Ham Licenses who are convicted felons to write details about their felonies on their applications. They have probably studied for licenses while incarcerated. They may come to VE sessions knowing exactly what they need to write on applications in order to show that they were part of a program that helped them to learn practical technology to get employed as electronic technicians. These men needed to take a short course and get certified. They have no time to go to a two year vocational or academic school. They could however study for ham exams and could get certified by passing them if they could get excused from their convictions. If such applicants appear at VE sessions there is nothing that CVEs or VEs need to do other than to permit them to complete their applications as they were taught to do while in jail. If they pass ham exams their paperwork will go on to the VECs and to the FCC where decisions will be made about granting them ham licenses. There is no requirement, in fact no obligation, for CVEs or VEs to help or hinder applicants at VE sessions. Only the requirement: that all paperwork for applicants who pass exams must be sent to VECs. A ham license might also help a former felon to be eligible for US military service.

On the HISTORY CHANNEL I saw a program about the Korean "War." I knew lots about it because I learned about it from soldiers who had fought in Korea before I got there myself. I will try to continue to explain much about it in future newsletters. This subject is important now more than ever. I wish that our leaders would show a better understanding of what works and what does not. As always I welcome any comments from reader, be they negative or positive. Enuf sed.

73, Bob w2ilp (I Like Peace)

The geek shall inherit the Earth. –Neil De Gras Tyson--

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Numbers? Constants? Waves? Quantum?

(continued from page 4)

Having discussed the escape of Lise Meitner from Germany, let me forget about physicists for a while and tell about how some religious Jews were able to escape Germany with the help of a Japanese Ambassador. He took a group of Hassidic Jews to Kyoto, Japan where they were given homes and allowed to prepare kosher food by and for themselves.. The head Rabbi of the group was summoned to Tokyo, Japan to answer questions about the Jewish people. First a Japanese government representative asked, "According to a history book that I have studied the Jews surrendered their land to the Hittites many centuries, ago after losing a war. How can Jews still exist?" The rabbi answered, "You can now go to London, England, New York, NY or Melbourne, Australia and find many Jews. Can you find any Hittites?" Then the Japanese man asked, "What did the Jews do to the Germans that made them hate Jews so much? I was told that it is not because of their religion." The Rabbi answered, "The Germans hate us because we don't belong to their 'master race'. They hate us because we are Asians." "Ah-so" the Japanese rep answered, "But they like us and we are Asians." "Take care", said the Rabbi, "If Germany wins the war you will be next on their list."

I will now interrupt the sequence of famous quantum scientists of the past and skip on to the popular scientists of the present time. I had started this topic when I read a book by Max Tegmark's who had been on several TV talk shows. He was recognized by the late Dr. Wheeler as a great thinker. Max had invented a case between the "Yes" and "No" states that was not a logical "don't care" artifact that is due to the inability of going from zero to one in zero time electronically. According to Max it is an entry to another universe that is parallel to ours and invisible only because we don't yet have any way to observe it beyond our own imagination." According to learned critics of Tegmark we might as well believe in a personal God who doesn't have to live in another universe if he prefers this one. We don't know which other universes may be heavens or hells, reality shows or science fiction imagination. There are no clues that can be collected as far as we know so there is a dead end to Tegmark's theory. Another theory about the creation of the universe, which is called string theory seems to be going out of style now because some critics have found it to be concluded from debatable evidence.

Next month I will write about two men who have lectured and debated about the history of science. You can see them on YouTube. They are lenard