

# *CQ de WA2LQO*

Seventy Four Years: 1944 -2018

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

**APRIL 2018      VOLUME 91    NUMBER 4**

## **NEW MEETING DATE AND PLACE**

**MEETINGS NOW ARE ON THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:  
5:30 PM APRIL 25 AT HAYPATH ROAD PARK IN OLD BETHPAGE**

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### **From Pusan to the Yalu 1950**    by Jack R. Hayne WB2BED

*Jack Hayne WB2BED is a true American hero, serving with honor and distinction as an officer in the US Army, and seeing extensive combat during the Korean War (1950 – 53). Jack has decided to send me a memoir to put in the newsletter. We all know that war can be horrible, and Jack saw his share. In my editing, I decided to leave out the gruesome parts of Jack's report – Ed WB2EAV*

*A short history lesson: When North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950, the new United Nations declared a "police action" where troops of many nations fought under the UN flag to drive the North Koreans out. Things went well until the UN troops reached the border with China - and despite warnings not to do so, General MacArthur crossed the Yalu River into China, unleashing a torrent of Chinese forces in support of North Korea. The UN forces were driven way back, and then a crushing slog (1.2 million deaths; 35,000 American) dragged on for 3 years until all the exhausted combatants declared a truce (not a peace) that still is in effect today. Jack describes his own view of how it played out in the beginning.*

*Fun fact: When a reporter kept asking why MacArthur was relieved of command, President Truman (a WWI artillery corporal) lost it, and blurted out "because he's an insubordinate sonofabitch" - Ed WB2EAV*

Tuesday, 7 June 1949, my wife and I were the first to be married Graduation Day in the Old Cadet Chapel at West Point. Fourteen months later I was on my way to Korea in an LST and landed at Busan (Pusan) with D Battery, 76<sup>th</sup> AAA AW Battalion in August 1950 as the platoon leader of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

Battalion HQ assigned D Battery to move north to the northwest corner of the Busan Perimeter at Daegu (Taegu) and K-2 Airbase, and my task was to bring up the rear. Our vehicles had served the US Army well in WWII, but by now they were getting old and tired, suffering many breakdowns. Moving north we started encountering crude signs made of boards mounted on stakes, with painted letters "DANGER FORWARD". I didn't need signs to tell me that we were in a war zone. But a sign pointing south saying "DANGER REAR" rattled me until I found out that "DANGER" was the code word for the 25<sup>th</sup> Division CP. Well, anyway we were now part of the Eighth Army, but I couldn't find any mention of us in the Eighth Army Order of Battle. I did find our battalion listed with the Fifth Air Force. Nonetheless, I continued to wear my Eighth Army shoulder patch. (Complicated!)

We were equipped with T-19 and M-16 half-tracks. The T-19s were standard half-tracks with 40mm

AntiAircraft cannons, but the side armor and large fuel tank had been replaced with a small tank to make more room for extra ammunition. To compensate for the reduced fuel capacity, we carried a 55 gallon drum on the front bumper (no concern for safety). This was a poor substitute for the M-19 that carried two 40 mm cannons on a tank chassis, but we made do.

The other half-tracks were M-16s, with quad-50 cal. machine guns. Upon arrival at K-2 Airbase, we found and took over some abandoned M-55 Quad 50 caliber machine guns mounted in a turret on small wheels. I welcomed the spare guns and extra ammunition. Each 6-man gun squad towed a trailer with supplies, still more ammo, and personal gear. One half-track was our personnel carrier for my assistant platoon leader, Lt. George Armitage, and my platoon sergeant Coy R. Morris. *[I recently located Sgt. Morris in Detroit and had a long conversation with him. I also contacted one of my section leaders Sgt. Daniels. Had quite a time with our reminiscences]*

I found out that our half-tracks had been used in the invasion of Leyte and Mindinowa in the Philippines in WWII. So much for good, dependable combat equipment. We often provided protection to convoys, and on one occasion we were ambushed at Yongchon on the way to Pohang-do on the east coast. We lost one half-track, with one man wounded there.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> Eighth Army started our counter offensive with the Inchon amphibious landing. Not long afterward, we received orders to head north to Kimpo Airbase K-14 and Seoul. On arrival, I was given the mission to set up the air defense of the capital, Seoul. That meant defending the Parliament, the residence of President Syngman Rhee, and headquarters of both Eighth Army and Fifth Air Force. As a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, I had to brief General Walton Walker and his staff daily on the air defense situation. It was in Seoul that I was finally able to have my first bath in 1-1/2 months. My interpreter Kim Jung Ku made arrangements for us to bathe in a Korean bathhouse with fresh hot water in a large tub before the general public was allowed in. What a pleasure! My command post was in the gate house of a Korean girl's school. Communication with my gun positions relied upon the battery operated radio I kept there. I had a brand-new lead-acid battery for the radio, but it arrived dry, and needed battery acid and water. I went to the hospital laboratory, found a lab tech, and tried asking for sulfuric acid. After several frustrating translation attempts I got an idea and just wrote "H2SO4" on a blackboard. Aha, that was the clincher, and I received my acid.

This soft assignment was not meant to last. Battery D got orders to move north. All this time the remainder of our battalion, HQ, Batteries A, B and C, were still back at Pusan K-9 AB and Taegu K-2 AB. We crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and proceeded to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. I found some Navy cases of 40 mm ammunition for my weapons. Upon opening the cases, I found bills of lading written in Russian. Apparently, these were sent to Russia during WWII through Murmansk. More ammo was always welcome, regardless of its history.

After a couple of days in Pyongyang, we moved to Sinanju K-29 AB to set up defense of a small air strip and its Air Force radar and communications squadron. Our next objective was Sinuiju K-30 AB on the Yalu River (the border with China). As always, the Battery Commander gave me the task of reconnoitering the new location. I took my driver and my usual translator, Kim, and moved north. Then I noticed that it was awfully quiet and relatively clean – no candy wrappers or food ration cans, no fresh vehicle tracks in the snow, etc. Oh boy, I was out in front of our lines and had better head back home. I didn't realize it at the time, but it was a close call for me. It was 26 or 27 November and the Chinese had just started their major offensive.

On the way back to my unit I stopped at the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and met with my classmate Lew Zickel, who introduced me to the K Company commander, a Native American. The next day I visited the MASH unit, and recognized the K Co. Commander as he was brought in on a stretcher with a severe head wound. As the situation worsened and it looked like we would have to withdraw, I spoke

to the Air Force communications officer and asked that he let us know when he was ordered to move out. However, I never received that word from him; the first of several times we were abandoned.

When we received orders to evacuate and move south on November 29, I withdrew along a western road. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division was on a parallel road to the east, and was nearly destroyed, suffering very heavy casualties. Of my ten vehicles and weapons, I was down to one T-19 half-track with the 40 mm cannon, one M-16 half-track with the quad 50-cal machine guns, our half-track personnel carrier, and my jeep. I had to destroy the remaining weapons and ammunition we left behind.

This being late 1950 in North Korea, it was very cold. At K-29 AFB my assistant platoon leader and I occupied a Korean farm building, and used a GI stove for warmth. If we faced the stove our back side froze, and vice versa. When checking on my various gun crews, I noticed some of the men in their farm house were lounging around in their underwear in the warm rooms. I questioned my platoon sergeant Coy Morris and found out that they heated the building just as the farmers did, by making a small fire in the kitchen stove. The chimney was intentionally on the other side of the house, and smoke from the kitchen stove fire traveled to the chimney under the floor of the building, warming the floors. Before Lt George Armitage and I could take advantage of that lesson, we had to evacuate the base.

George and I were 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants and should have been promoted two months ago. However, we were always on the move and I guess the battery commander just forgot to promote us. Our battalion commander LCol Andrews finally paid us a visit after all this time, noticed all the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts, and suggested we be promoted. (Quite a while later I was talking to another Lt in another battery and he said that my battery commander revealed that he had it in for all us West Point and ROTC Lts. Needless to say, my performance reports were terrible). On that day the Chinese offensive was our "celebration."

Departure from K-29 was delayed for several hours in order to put a new transmission in one of our trucks. I couldn't leave it behind, as it held our kitchen, and I was the mess officer too. Moving south on the withdrawal was a problem since the roads were very narrow and icy with high crowns. Ammo vehicles moving north had priority, and we had to get off the road for them. Many times we had to stop our jeep and trailer on the side of the road, and drive bayonets into the ice next to the tires to keep the jeep from sliding off the road into a rice paddy. To make matters worse, we somehow developed a leak in our radiator and had to stop periodically to pour water into the radiator. On top of all this, when we stopped at our battalion HQ on the airbase in Pyongyang for the night, "Bed Check Charlie" flew over and dropped a bomb on my jeep trailer. I lost only half of my gear, but Armitage lost most of his. Worse yet, the jeep's gearshift lever was now stuck in third gear. Now, we had to shift in four wheel drive-low range, then into high-range, and eventually into two wheel drive, always in third gear. That lasted until we came across an abandoned jeep along the way.

When we finally made it Suwon K-13 AB I asked Kim to direct me to his family home in Seoul so we could evacuate his family, if necessary. My battery commander refused to evacuate any .... let's say .... indigenous personnel. I made arrangements for a LCol of 10<sup>th</sup> AAA Group to take Kim's mother and a child when we had to move. I would take his sister and a young brother. I had cans of Toddy chocolate drink for the child and adults.

We set up our gun positions around the airbase and prayed that our lines would hold north of Seoul, but that didn't happen. Eventually we would have to move further south. I spoke to the Air Force communications personnel in the tent near my CP and asked them to label the telephone line to Eighth Army and Fifth Airforce Hq so that we would have communications when they leave. That never happened. When they pulled up stakes, all I found was a very large bundle of unidentified wires. In addition, they left the ammo dump with all the aircraft bombs sitting there intact, just off the

runway. I was preparing to do a little demolition, when an engineer friend of mine arrived to do the job. Guess Who? Harry Griffith had been my First Captain when we were cadets at West Point.

Somehow we received orders to leave, and the LCol arrived with Kim's family and I loaded his sister and brother in our jeep. Traveling with a family during this time was weird since Kim and his sister argued constantly. When we stopped in the evening she wouldn't sleep under the same roof with me because I was a stranger and she was unmarried. Ok, kiddo... it's your turn to be on guard with your brother but keep quiet so I can sleep.

This accounts for only the first four months of my 19 month tour during the Korean War, alternately exciting and boring, depending on the mission. One memorable one was taking a 62 vehicle ammo convoy in January '51 to Wonju, only to have the ammo dump blow up shortly after delivery.  
*[Postscript: I went back with my son to South Korea in 1998, and saw the vast improvements since]*

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

### **Sad news: Stephen Nestor K2CNF - SK**

The club is saddened by the passing of long time member Stephen Nestor K2CNF.

Ray W2DKM had these comments:

*Stephen was a club member from around the mid 70's, and was one of the better CW ops at Field Day in the mid-to-late 70's; He supported the Iranian crisis operation for a few shifts at our club station WA2LQO in 1978-1979, was one of the original Volunteer Examiners when the Club started offering exams, and held WAG certificate #3 in the original WAG (Worked all Grumman) program. He is in a picture on page 212 of my GARC 45 years of history – the 1982 picnic. Quietly competent and supportive of the club; one of the good guys.*

### **ARRL proposed action to the FCC**

For several decades now, the amateur radio community has obviously been ageing. At a time when the internet and smartphones are literally everywhere, the number of younger people interested in ham radio has been way down. The argument that ham radio differs from all the other forms of communication by not depending on infrastructure, does attract a few applicants who are interested in public service, but nowhere near enough to make a real difference. Towards that end, the ARRL has long been discussing and considering new proposals to attract new members.

All along, entry class licensees have had some ability to work on the HF bands, specifically on CW (Morse code). With the elimination of the novice license a few decades ago, the laws changed to allow Technician licensees access to limited HF CW operation. A common suggestion over the past few years has been to add digital modes to CW in those frequencies already allocated to technicians. This makes a lot of sense, in that all of today's youth are absolutely surrounded by digital communications. Also, considering the FCC allocates specific frequencies to both CW and digital modes as a group, it seems a virtual no-brainer to give it a try.

Somewhat more controversial is the proposal to allow some limited HF frequencies for technician SSB transmissions. The idea is to walk the tightrope of giving technicians enough voice privileges to bring them in, yet still provide incentive to upgrade to increase their operating privileges, but not enough privileges to just settle in and not upgrade

The other day, the ARRL acted on these ideas and submitted a proposed action to the FCC to consider increased technician privileges. The public comment period is now being worked out.

## GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Ed reports finances continue to be in good shape.

### REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Gordon reports 146.745 Repeater is intermittent.

### 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

### VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Two applicants; one for Extra (failed) and one for Technician (passed) who then took the General and failed. VEs: WB2EAV, WB2IKT, KC2YRJ, 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:

### 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. Effective January 2018, unless otherwise notified, meetings start at **5:30 PM** on the **FOURTH Wednesday** of the month, at HAYPATH ROAD Town Park in OLD BETHPAGE. [This month's meeting is Wednesday April 25]

### GARC Officers:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV 516-507-8969              | <a href="mailto:wb2eav@yahoo.com">wb2eav@yahoo.com</a>               |
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| Secretary: Karen Cefalo, W2ABK 631-754-0974               | <a href="mailto:w2abk@aol.com">w2abk@aol.com</a>                     |
| Treasurer: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV (see above)               |  |
| WA2LQO Trustee: Ray Schubnel, W2DKM Retiree               | <a href="mailto:schubnel@optonline.net">schubnel@optonline.net</a>   |
| Board Member: Jack Cottrell, WA2PYK Retiree 516-249-0979  | <a href="mailto:jjcottrell2@verizon.net">jjcottrell2@verizon.net</a> |
| Board Member: Dave Ledo, AB2EF                            | <a href="mailto:ab2efdl@gmail.com">ab2efdl@gmail.com</a>             |
| Board Member: Jack Hayne, WB2BED                          | <a href="mailto:wb2bed@arrl.net">wb2bed@arrl.net</a>                 |
| Board Member: George Sullivan, WB2IKT                     |  |

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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, BUT sessions may be cancelled if no applicants make appointments. The fee 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 leave with the examiner a copy of their current license. All applicants must show a photo ID such as a driver's license. Study material may be obtained from ARRL-VEC at <http://www.arrl.org>, or W5YI-VEC at <http://www.W5YI.org>. All VECs use and update the same Q&A pools. Page 5

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(President's Page - continued from page 4)

The specific changes are as follows:

- The existing technician CW frequencies on 80, 40 and 15 meters would now include digital modes. The maximum transmitted power limitation would remain at 200 watts.
- The upper 100 kHz of the 75, 40 and 15 meter SSB bands would allow technician operation at up to a maximum power level of 200 watts

The addition of digital modes in the technician CW allocated frequencies seems to me like a good idea, just so long as some scheme is developed that adapts the existing band plan that keeps CW and digital mode operations apart, to the new frequency allocations.

The question with the newly proposed SSB privileges for technicians is whether it is enticing enough to bring in new hams, while leaving enough on the table to encourage those who decide they like this to upgrade and do more of it.

If you have any comments, I will put them in the next newsletter.

**Ed WB2EAV**

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