

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Three Years: 1944 -2017

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

MARCH 2017 VOLUME 90 NUMBER 3

**MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (March 15)
STARTING AT 5:30 PM AT THE ELLSWORTH ALLEN PARK IN FARMINGDALE**

How Ham Radio prepared me to be an Engineer

by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

(Continued from February 2017)

The soldiers who had been processed at the port of Incheon were assigned to travel on trucks, according to their paper orders, to their assigned destinations. It was then that I realized that I was the only soldier who was going to a Signal Corps company. That was because I had completed my specialist training alone, not with a class of grads. It was more usual for groups of GIs to be assigned in groups.

As soon as my truck started slowly moving on bumpy gravel roads it was followed by a number of filthy street urchins who were begging us for hand-outs. They reminded me of the sea gulls who follow fishing ships at the time when they know that fish heads and other garbage will be available. Some of the GIs tossed candy bars, food and Korean money to the kids. Soldiers who had been to Korea before were not so generous. They told us that we would have to learn to avoid desperate Korean homeless beggars. They called them "slicky boys." I later learned why it was not good to encourage beggars, even when they yelled welcoming words (as well as expletives) in GI English, which seemed cute to newly arriving GIs. Finally, the duce and a half got to the Yong Dong Po area. It stopped to unload a group of GIs at a hospital compound and another group of GIs at another compound. Compounds were areas which were surrounded by barbed wire fences and guard towers. After it passed through the security gate of the 181st Signal Company (Depot compound) the driver called out that I had to get off and report to the Company Commander in the orderly room of a Quonset hut. I had been sitting on the floor of the truck and I now had to jump over the truck's tail gate with my duffle bag. Jumping over the tail gate was not exactly easy for me. I had failed exercises with parallel bars in high school gyms. If I was an officer the tail gate would have been lowered. I now realized why it was important to show how tough and confident we grunts were, even if the practice would send some GIs to the medics with sprained ankles.

The orderly room was partitioned such that I had to check-in with the First Sergeant before I could enter to report to the Commanding Officer (CO). The Sergeant looked at my orders and said "Welcome Private Wexelbaum," sort of snidely, "We knew that you were coming." He told me that the CO was to be addressed as Captain Crowley. Then I entered the CO's office, stood at military attention, and announced in a loud military manner, "Captain Crowley Sir, Private Wexelbaum reporting for duty Sir." The CO handed an envelope to me. It was addressed to me and was labeled to be from US Major General George I. Back, Chief Signal Officer. If you remember, I had written to General Back, who had signed my A2ILP MARS station certificate. I wrote to him when I was on leave, asking that I might be assigned to a high echelon signal company so that I could serve the Army best by working my MOS. I had hoped that this would get me assigned to Japan...but here I was in Korea. The CO lectured me sternly, saying, "Private Wexelbaum, do not correspond with anyone who outranks me as long as I am CO of, this company. You have to go first to the first sergeant. If he approves, you may see me. If I approve, your message might go up the chain of command. No member of my company has ever complained about anything here. Now I will hand you the General's message. You have to sign for it and destroy it after you read it. You and I are the only ones who may read it. Not even the first Sergeant. Do not show it to anyone." I was then escorted by a corporal to a mess hall for supper and then to a temporary tent where I would be spending the night. In the morning I was to report to the Radio Repair Shop at 0700. As soon as I got to a place where I was not being watched, I opened the message from the Chief Signal Officer.

[This now reminds me of Ralphie decoding the disappointing message from Orphan Annie in “A Christmas Story” that turned out to only be an ad for Ovaltine.] It was all typed in telegram caps and said: - PRIVATE ROBERT WEXELBAUM, GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TOUR OF DUTY IN THE FAR EAST. The one line message was signed in ink, and underlined: GEORGE I. BACK, MAJOR GENERAL, USA. What a let-down! He could have commended me for quickly completing Tessa Tech, or at least seen that I got a specialist rating like the others who had qualified. Why was this message not to be told to the men who I would be working and living with?

I awoke early the following morning feeling chilled. It was late fall at the time and I had only a thin blanket on a cot bed without a mattress. Early as it was, the other GIs in the tent were gone already. They had been only temporarily (TDY) to our compound, having delivered or picked up stuff that was repaired and had to stay only one night before returning to their regular compounds. I looked for the new field jacket that I had been issued in Incheon but it was gone. I asked a soldier how I could get another jacket. He said that I would probably have to buy one on the Korean market but I could try seeing the company’s quartermaster sergeant. I found out where the quartermaster’s cubby-hole was and awakened him. He said that I was “SOL”. He had no new jackets to issue or sell. After some ranting from me he offered me a used jacket that hung on a gas mask and helmet rack. It fit me OK, but on the back of it there was a painted dragon and a sign that said: TULSA OKLAHOMA. I figured that I could eventually erase the stuff on the jacket. The Korean laundry erased most of the dragon but the TULSA OKLAHOMA sign was so indelible that it continued to falsely identify me until months later, when I was able to negotiate the cost, in MPCs, of a brand new jacket from a Korean vendor, who sold them off of a push-cart on a dusty street in Seoul.

The 181st Signal Company actually consisted of two separate compounds. Between the two were railroad tracks that ran south to Pusan and north to the DMZ. I was told that at one time the tracks continued north through what is now North Korea and on through Manchuria to connect with Russia’s Trans-Siberian RR. The compound which housed all the GIs was led by Captain Crawley. It contained tents, and huts for about 300 men. The officers lived in small cottages, usually two or three to a cottage. Here there was a large mess hall, an officer’s club and a very large enlisted men’s club. Capt. Crowley’s Orderly room and office joined an armory where rifles, carbines, motors, bazookas, and ammunition were stored. The compound contained a motor pool where jeeps and trucks were parked and serviced. It also contained a number of warehouses, one of which had a lab for developing and printing black and white film.

The technical compound was another world. It was governed by Captain Cooke, who was Black. He was a combat hero. It contained the Radio Repair building that I was assigned to. (to be continued)

PRESIDENT’S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV W2QUV - SK

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Howard Liebman, W2QUV. I’ve known Howie for many years and found him to be an interesting fellow; Opinionated, yet always very pleasant and helpful. He had to be in his mid-90s, a pretty good run as such things go, especially when you consider a more likely alternative ... I am reminded of something another member of the “greatest generation” once told me: How he found every birthday a surprise, never having expected to get to celebrate many because of his post-high-school extended holiday, island hopping between such tropical paradises as Guadalcanal, Guam, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

One Memorial Day a few years ago, I found myself at a ceremony honoring a few local citizens. I was surprised when I saw Howie on the dais, but was far more surprised when we were told of his WWII exploits. In short, Howie regularly flew the hump ... the notorious Himalaya crossing in an old rattletrap C-47, where you can augur in even while flying level at maximum flight ceiling. Apparently, Howie was involved in Special Ops, and had more than the usual share of excitement.

Every year Time magazine has a “Man of the year” issue; In late 1999 Newsweek ran a one-time “Man of the Century” cover that I thought was perfect, despite just being a 1944 pencil sketch of two tired and filthy GIs plodding through the mud. Bill Mauldin’s “Willie and Joe” represented millions of citizen soldiers taken from their homes and sent to God-forsaken places to literally save the world. Never have I seen a more fitting cover. And Howie was in more hellholes and predicaments than Willie and Joe ever imagined.

Howie is an authentic hero; part of the greatest generation that liberated the world, then sick of the hate and killing they saw, set out to make it a better place. He and his compatriots already are sorely missed.

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD/GENERAL MEETING 2/15/2017

The meeting was called to order by Gordon, KB2UB at 5:30 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working.

NET REPORT – Karen, W2ASK

Sunday Net at 7:30 AM on 7.289 had 0 check ins.

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

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

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Three applicants applied, one for Technician, one for General and one for Extra. They all passed.

Three VEs were present: Ed, WB2EAV, Bill WB2QGZ and Ken, KC2YRJ.

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.

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. **March 2017 meeting will be 5:30 PM on Wednesday March 15 at Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale.**

SILENT KEY

I am taking the humble liberty to write about Howie here. See also WB2EAV's note on Page 2. –w2ilp--

I was informed by a telephone call from his wife, Rhea, that Howard Liebman, W2QUV had passed away on January 14th, 2017. His death was unexpected because he had joined us at the GARC December Party meeting. Ed Whitman had written that Howie was one of his heroes. Howie was a WWII hero. I want to tell you more about Howie as a Ham. Howie was a member of the ARRL, QCWA (when it had a Long Island Chapter), and an active member of the Wantagh Radio Club. He was a former board member of the GARC. He was at one time the ARRL NYC-LI Technical Coordinator, when he helped new hams set up their stations and antennas. He elected me as Assistant Technical Coordinator. Howie and I were both acknowledged contributors to the 1991 ARRL book, "Radio Frequency Interference – How to Find it and Fix it". Howie wrote several technical articles that were printed in WorldRadio. Howie was a Volunteer Examiner and a Certified Commercial Examiner. He traveled to many ham clubs, giving informative presentations. He traveled with me to give ham tests to Greek and Turkish Americans in Astoria, Queens when they needed us because they did not have a sufficient number of Amateur Extra Class VEs. He traveled to Suffolk Community College campuses to assist me in proctoring Commercial as well as ham exams. Howie was very happy when he and Rhea were newly-weds. Rhea accompanied us on some of our VE trips. That is why she knew me better than other GARC members. Howie was an expert CW operator. I know that because I logged for him on a FD when my hearing was much better than it is now. Rhea Liebman's mailing address is the same as Howie's had been: 65 Meadow Lane, Hicksville, NY 11801-5306.

PUZZLE This month's puzzle is:

When working in a lab provided by Westinghouse, what did Nicola Tesla try to accomplish?

- A. Make an AM modulated radio telephone transmitter
- B. Make an electric car that could accelerate as fast as a gasoline powered car
- C. Make an electric fan that could safely run continuously in a coal mine
- D. Contact amateurs in NY by radio from the lab in Pittsburg

Numbers? Constants? Atoms? Waves? Quantum?

(Continued from February 2017)

I will now continue the chronology of significant physics discoveries and start after the year of 1929 when Dr. Louis de Broglie received the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the wave nature of the electron.

1930 At the 6th Solvay Conference in Brussels, the 2nd round of debates between Einstein and Bohr focuses on Einstein's clock-in-the box thought experiment, which challenges the Copenhagen interpretation.

1931 The Danish Academy of Science and Letters selects Bohr as the next occupant of Aeresbolig, "The House of Honors", a mansion built by the founder of Carlsberg beers.

1932 John von Neumann's book *The Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics* is published in German. It contains his 'Impossibility proof' - No hidden variables theory can reproduce the predictions of quantum mechanics. Dirac is elected Lucasian Professor Of Mathematics at Cambridge University, a post once held by Isaac Newton. Einstein visits Tokyo, Japan. His theories are well accepted by Japanese physicists.

1933 Nazis seize power in Germany. Luckily Einstein is in the US as a visiting professor at Cal Tech. Einstein says that he will not return to Germany and resigns from the Prussian Academy of Sciences. He arrives in Belgium and severs ties with German institutions. The Nazis introduce the 'Law for the Restoration of the Career Civil Servants' designed to target political opponents, socialists, communists, and Jews. Paragraph 3 contains the 'Arian clause': 'Civil Servants who are not of Arian origin must retire.' By 1936 more than 1600 scholars would be fired, a third of them scientists, including 20 who or had been or would be awarded the Nobel Prize. 20,000 books are burned in Berlin, with similar bonfires of un-German works throughout Germany. Although unaffected by Nazi regulations, unlike Born and some others, Schrodinger leaves Germany for Oxford. Heisenberg stays. The Academic Assistance Council, with Rutherford as its president, is set up in England to help refugee scientists, artists and writers. Einstein fears for his life and leaves Belgium for England. Paul Ehrenfest commits suicide. Einstein arrives at Princeton, NJ for a scheduled visit, intending to stay for only a few months at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS). He never returns to Europe. Heisenberg receives the deferred 1932 Nobel Prize. Dirac and Schrodinger share the Nobel Prize for 1933.

1935 The Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen (EPR) paper, "Can Quantum Mechanical Description of Physical Reality Be Considered Complete?" is published in *Physical Review*.

1936 Schrodinger and Bohr meet in London. Bohr says that its appalling and high treason that Schrodinger and Einstein want to strike a blow against quantum mechanics as it was then defined. Bohr takes a post as professor of natural philosophy at Edinburgh University after nearly three years at Cambridge and a few months in Bangalore, India. He stays until he retires in 1953.

1937 Bohr arrives at Princeton for a week-long stay as part of a world tour. Einstein and Bohr discuss the interpretations of quantum mechanics face-to-face for the first time since the publication of the EPR paper but many things remain unsaid. Heisenberg is brand a "white Jew" in a Nazi journal for teaching "Jewish" physics such as Einstein's theory of relativity. Rutherford dies at age 66 in Cambridge after surgery for a strangulated hernia.

1939 Bohr arrives at IAS as a visiting professor for an entire semester. Einstein avoids any discussions with Bohr, and during the next four month they meet only once at a reception. Einstein signs a letter to President FDR raising the possibility of making an atomic weapon and the danger if the Germans are able to make such a weapon first. WWII begins. Schrodinger arrives in Dublin after stints in Graz and Ghent. He remains in Dublin as senior professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) until 1956 when he returns to Vienna.

1940 Einstein sends a letter to FDR concerning the A-Bomb. Pauli leaves war-torn Europe and joins Einstein at the IAS in Princeton. He remains there until 1946 when he returns to Zurich and the EPH.

1941 Heisenberg visits Bohr in Copenhagen. Denmark has been occupied by German forces since 1939.

1943 Bohr and his family escape to Sweden. Bohr visits Princeton and dines with Einstein and Pauli before heading to Los Alamos, New Mexico to work on the A-Bomb. It is the first meeting between Einstein and Bohr since 1939.

1945 Germany surrenders. Heisenberg is arrested by allied forces. A-Bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Bohr returns to Copenhagen. Pauli is awarded the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the exclusion principle.

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Newsletter

CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the Grumman Amateur Radio Club for its members and friends.
Editor: Bob Wexelbaum, Retiree 631-499-2214 rwexelbaum@verizon.net Contributing writers: All GARC members (we hope). To submit articles or ham equipment advertisements contact the editor.

GARC Webmaster

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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. 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 is \$14. All applicants must pre-register with Ed Gellender 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

February has been a sad month for me. Not only because I received the news that Howie had passed away but because my cat, Rusty, passed away. Some people can't understand how humans can love pet cats. There are many hams who post on QRZ who write about one or more of their cats. They tell about the cute things that their cats do and they post pictures of their cats rather than of themselves. Schrodinger the Physicist is famous for a theoretical experiment where a cat that might be in a theoretical box is subjected to the theoretical probability that its whole-life must be determined by the half-life of a mineral substance. Many students who are cat lovers have to be quieted down by explaining that Schrodinger's cat is only statistically a theoretical cat. I will now talk about my own pet cats. When we lived in The Bronx, my wife Ethel decided to buy a pedigreed Siamese cat from a breeder. She coaxed me into going to Staten Island to look at cats that were advertised in the NY Times. After driving there, I could not say no because we were offered the pick of the litter, which was a male blue point that showed great amounts of active curiosity. He turned out to be mainly my XYL's cat. She had him trained to roll over and shake paws on verbal command. When asked "Do you want to eat?" the cat would always answer with an appropriate Meow. When we moved to Commack the cat moved with us. When my daughter, Rachel, was born, a visiting nurse warned the cat not to go into Rachel's crib. He never did, but he came into her room often to look at her and see that she was OK. When he died, Ethel wanted another Siamese cat but we were on a limited budget. She went to a breeder on LI and bargained for the remaining cat of a litter, which was a female. That cat was not very social. She hid from us the day she came to our home and never showed any affection to anyone, even my daughter who was a born cat-lover, and knew how to handle them. Now, I want to tell you about the cat that recently died but I'm running out of space so I will have to tell you next month. She was a short-haired domestic cat that was not bought from a breeder. I did not pick her... She picked me. She had a sense of humor that I will tell about and she was actually able to smile, which even cat lovers believe to be impossible. I hope that there are no human SKs next month because they deserve priority. Stay well all you Internerds and Trumpnics.

73 w2ilp (I Like Pets) as long as they don't bark louder than they bite or bite harder than they scratch barks.

Grumman Amateur Radio Club
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FIRST CLASS MAIL
Do Not Delay

Numbers?, Constants?, Atoms?, Waves?, Quantum?
(Continued from Page 4)

1946 Heisenberg is appointed director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics, later to be named the Max Planck Institute.

1947 Planck dies in Gottingen at age 89.s

1948 Bohr arrives at IAS as a visiting professor. Relations with Einstein are more casual than in the past, but both men continue to disagree about quantum mechanics. In Princeton Bohr writes about his debates with Einstein in 1927 and 1930 as his contribution to a volume of papers celebrating Einstein's 70th Birthday.

1950 Bohr is at the IAS.

1951 David Bohm publishes his book, *Quantum Theory*. It consists of a novel and a simplified version of the EPR thought experiment.

1952 Two papers by Bohm are published in which he does what von Neumann said was impossible: He uncovers a hidden variables interpretation of quantum mechanics.

1954 Bohr is at the IAS. Disappointed when Heisenberg was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1932, Born is finally awarded the Nobel Prize for his statistical fundamental work in quantum mechanics.

1955 Einstein dies in Princeton at age 76. After a simple ceremony his ashes are scattered at an unknown location, except for his brain which was studied by neurologists and found to be relatively average.

1957 Hugh Everett III presents the 'Relative State' formulation of quantum mechanics, later known as the many worlds interpretation.

1958 Pauli dies in Zurich at the age of 58.

1961 Schrodinger dies in Vienna at the age of 73.

1962 Bohr dies in Copenhagen at the age of 77.

1964 John Bell states that any hidden variable theory whose predictions agree with those of quantum mechanics must be non-local. This is published in a little read journal. It is known as Bell's inequality and derives limits on the degree of limitations of correlation of the quantum spins of entangled pairs of particles that must be satisfied by any local hidden variable theory. (to be continued next month)