

-----THE MUSE-----

-----For NOVEMBER 2023-----

-----“H” Night coming up on FRIDAY DECEMBER 8th. Put it in your Diary now! -----

The newsletter of the MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NZART BRANCH 86
Incorporating The Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation News
and **Green Radios On The Air (GROTA) News.**

Musick Point Memorial Radio Station, Bucklands Beach, Auckland. Call Sign-ZL1ZLD.

BRANCH 86 NZART NET- TUESDAYS, 7.30PM, 145.775 MHz, Musick Point Repeater. All welcome!

SPAM Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>

Website- <https://musickpointradio.org> Webmaster-Neil ZL1NZ.

SPAM A.M. (ZL6AM or ZL1ZLD) Nets- Mondays 11.30AM, some Wednesdays 11.30 AM, Fridays 8.30PM ,
on 3.850MHz. A.M. Calling frequencies- 3.850MHZ, 7.125 MHz

Editor- Martyn, ZL3CK.

Meeting- Second Sunday of the Month (Except May-Third Sunday, to avoid Mothers' Day)

NEXT MEETING- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th at 1PM. Snacks, coffee and tea provided.

Reminder- “H” Night coming up- put it in your diary- FRIDAY December 8th 2023.



Upper: The Clipper at the pontoon on Saturday morning. Owing to a sudden change in the wind, its departure for Pago Pago, planned for 4 a.m. that day, was postponed. Lower Left: Spectators on Sunday morning watching preparations for the take-off. Lower Right: Captain E. C. Musick being rowed out to the Clipper just before she left.

Captain Edwin Musick preparing to leave Auckland in 1937.
Photo from- Neil ZL1NZ, See more at - maritimeradio.org

From the Chair

What a lovely long weekend for some of you to enjoy. I am writing from an isolated end of the house away from my XYL, who is taking part in an online symposium dealing with the education of early learners. Simplistically put, it is about teaching five year olds, and inspiring them to want to learn. This is something that seems lacking across the education spectrum.

On Wednesday, I was not feeling so well at work, but put it down to tiredness. That afternoon, on my way home, I was not feeling too great but kept receiving phone calls from work about an issue with our sorter. In the end, I agreed to go and attend to it first thing the next morning. Thursday arrived and I was decidedly unwell. I dragged myself to work, attended to the sorter in about twenty minutes, all the time wearing a mask, then stuck my head in at the offices to tell them I was going home. It was a terrible drive home, with me wishing all the time that it was over. I arrived home, undressed and pulled on some shorts and a tee shirt then collapsed onto the bed. In between spells of sweats and chills, I got some sleep and woke up at 2:30. A RAT test confirmed what I had begun to realise while driving home, so I logged it on ***the*** site, only to immediately be plagued with text messages and emails telling what I needed to do next. I knew what I was going to do: turn everything off, which I did after I had informed work. What a lovely long weekend I am having. All plans flushed away thanks to some 'selfish' person at work.

Don't let anyone call you average; that's just mean

For a while, now, we have been discussing, arguing, worrying about how to go about repairing the West beam rotator, which was reported as defective several months ago. It seems that we need worry no more as Dave ZL1DL has fixed it, and all on his own, too. When I arrived at the station last Sunday, Dave confessed that he had turned it on, pressed buttons and away it went as if it had enjoyed the 'break' (pun intended*). All fixed – well done Dave. We are now left to wonder what the issue was, and should we not have tried this 'trick' long ago. It is certainly a relief that we don't have to lower the mast and all the other pain and expense that goes with swapping out rotators. * Bad puns – that's how eye roll.

Just a little bit late, so what: Couldn't bother to vote? Must be a bad case of electile dysfunction

With so much time on my hands, this weekend, I gave the latest Break-In a good going over. Just when I thought there was not much more, I came across the Old Timers' Club column, which I must confess I usually breeze past, giving it only a casual glance. When I came to the lists of call signs of those who qualify for "longtime awards", I accidently spotted this one in the 50 year group: - ZL3CK. Well done Martyn.

Headline: Huge fight at local seafood diner! Battered fish everywhere

My brain is a bit disorganized, so pardon me for leaving this to the end.'

On Sunday, I became aware that a friend of Musick Point Radio Group: Ashley ZL1AG had passed away. It was a bit of a surprise as I had listened to him on the Tuesday evening after the ZL1ZLD 2m net, and he was his usual self: a bit loud but clear nonetheless, and full of his usual nonsense. I think we will always remember Ashley and miss him on air, at least, I will. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Looking back, I really hurt my neck!

Shenanigans – because life is more fun when you're up to something.

Until next month:

73, and call CQ
David, ZL1DRV

Silent Key ZL1AG Ashley Giles-Pain

It was a terrible shock to learn of Ashley's sudden passing on the evening of Friday October 13th 2023. He was 63. He and his wife Cynthia (whom we all know as "Blondie") had been in their new home in Waiuku for only a couple of weeks. Those who knew Ashley a little more than as 'a voice on the air' know he was a genuine, real character, who loved a joke and wasn't afraid of taking on controversial subjects.

One of his hobbies was collecting old television cameras, including some unique early cameras from New Zealand television history.

On many occasions, he was good company when mobile on long drives, some at very early hours-he made a special effort to be there. Ashley would go 'portable' with HF and a vertical aerial, using an old TV tripod-which would attract the attention of passers-by, some thought he was using some sort of death ray!

Ashley will be greatly missed by many.

The Musick Point Radio Group send our sincerest sympathies to Cynthia and their wider family.

R.I.P. Ashley ZL1AG(SK).

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MPRG News-

Visit from the Auckland Veteran and Vintage Car Club motorcycle group- This coming Sunday i.e. 28th October we will have a crowd of "mature" (mostly, some are not so well behaved!) vintage motorcyclists with their bikes (unless it's raining-they may come in cars). They expect to turn up about 12.

Paul Salter ZL1XUT was a recent visitor to Auckland and the bearer of a gift of a Marconi Signal generator to the Radio Station. This unit will nicely match the Marconi power meter we already have.

'I joined the NZPO radio depot in Feb 1978. My appointment number is 159819.

Thank you for the opportunity to donate the Marconi TF 995 Signal Generator to the ZLD museum. I will let you know if I come across other older instruments that you may wish to add to your collection.

Here is a funny story from ZLD.

Bob Mc Burney was doing a solder repair to the control boards inside the 2Meg operators sound booth at the receiving station. This was happening during the 3 min silence period. Which was to be followed by a broadcast.

The operator had just depressed the foot PTT switch when Bob burnt his fingers and his outburst of (Unprintable!) was broadcast to the world on 2182.

The operator was so perplexed by the outburst that he lifted his foot off the PTT switch. Incoming calls were then received, ie, strength 3 loud and clear from Toronto, strength 5 loud and clear from Sydney (as well as other stations world wide).

I guess it just goes to show that a 1KW transmitter is all you need to truly get the work out!

I am now part of branch 28 in Whangarei. My call sign is ZL1XUT.

TTFN (Ta Ta For Now) from **Paul ZL1XUT**

Also from Paul, another story from the past of Auckland Radio...

This is a story where I had my driving privileges removed and reinstated within minutes. The day started normally enough. Jerry Jackson was dropped off at the ZLD transmitting station at Oliver Rd.

He was to work on an old valve trolley mounted oscilloscope.

Barry Savage and myself were to undertake maintenance routines at the Musick Pt receiving station. We were told to expect Robert Otterway (snr section tech) and Doug Morris (the AK Radio Depot 2nd IC). Barry and I saw Doug and Robert but lost track of them during the morning. Unbeknown to us they were returning back to the depot by driving through the golf course.

At about this time Jerry rang the intercom between the two stations to report that the Transmitting station was on fire, full of smoke and he couldn't see the exit (the only one available was the front door).

Barry and I had a Le Mans start and drove at high speed to the transmitting station while Morris (chief operator) telephoned the fire brigade.

Barry and I overtook Doug and Robert's vehicle part way along The Parade so quickly we didn't even realise at the time who it was. They had no idea it was us either.

Barry and I arrived at Oliver Rd just as Jerry burst out the front door with a fire extinguisher in each hand, dropped them on the front lawn, sank to his knees in the grass and promptly vomited, then proceeded to cough his lungs up.

Smoke was wisping out the windows and we could hear the fire appliance sirens in the distance. I parked our vehicle well out of the way (on the grass).

At this moment Doug Morris and Robert drove up and parked in the station entrance. Doug demanded to know how long we had been at the transmitting station and promptly grounded me from all driving privileges.

I think he was even less than impressed when I took his car keys from him and moved his vehicle from blocking the station entrance.

Within seconds we had two fire appliances in Oliver Rd which I waved thru the gate.

Once the fire guys did their stuff and the sequence of events was detailed in the station log book, I had my driving privileges reinstated.

Cheers,
Paul Salter ZL1XUT

(Later, Paul told the Editor) the reason the fire alarm had not worked was immediately questioned, and it had to be confirmed that the regular fire alarm checks had, in fact, been correctly done. Subsequent investigation revealed it did not work because the sensors were mounted on top of the roof beams, inside the station, and the smoke didn't get all the way up. The sensors were duly repositioned to a place where they would actually work!

GROTA News-

Another month, another GROTA exercise. Since the author has been surveying the remaining WW2 coastal defence structures around Christchurch, we decided to try and “activate” some of these (SOTA style) with some army radios.

Let me clarify this was NOT re-enactment, but purely a technical trial of WW2 radio gear! (Editor’s note- We have it on good authority that GROTArians are NOT under ANY CIRCUMSTANCES to be confused with re-enacters. Any such suggestion will result in immediate, unspecified, BIG TROUBLE)

The stations were spread from Godley Head in the east, to Lyttelton in the west; six stations, eight operators and a total of twelve radios.

The trial was to investigate propagation of rocky ground, over high peaks and poor groundwave, with the longest path only 8 km.

In one case, the Lyttelton station, was using skywave as fading was apparent.



At the Erskine Point observation post with Braden ZL3BRK and Aidan ZL3APB on another FCD (Fantastic Canterbury Day).



A points system was created for this COTA (Castles on The Air) scheme, but the group shunned that in lieu of just getting out and having fun!

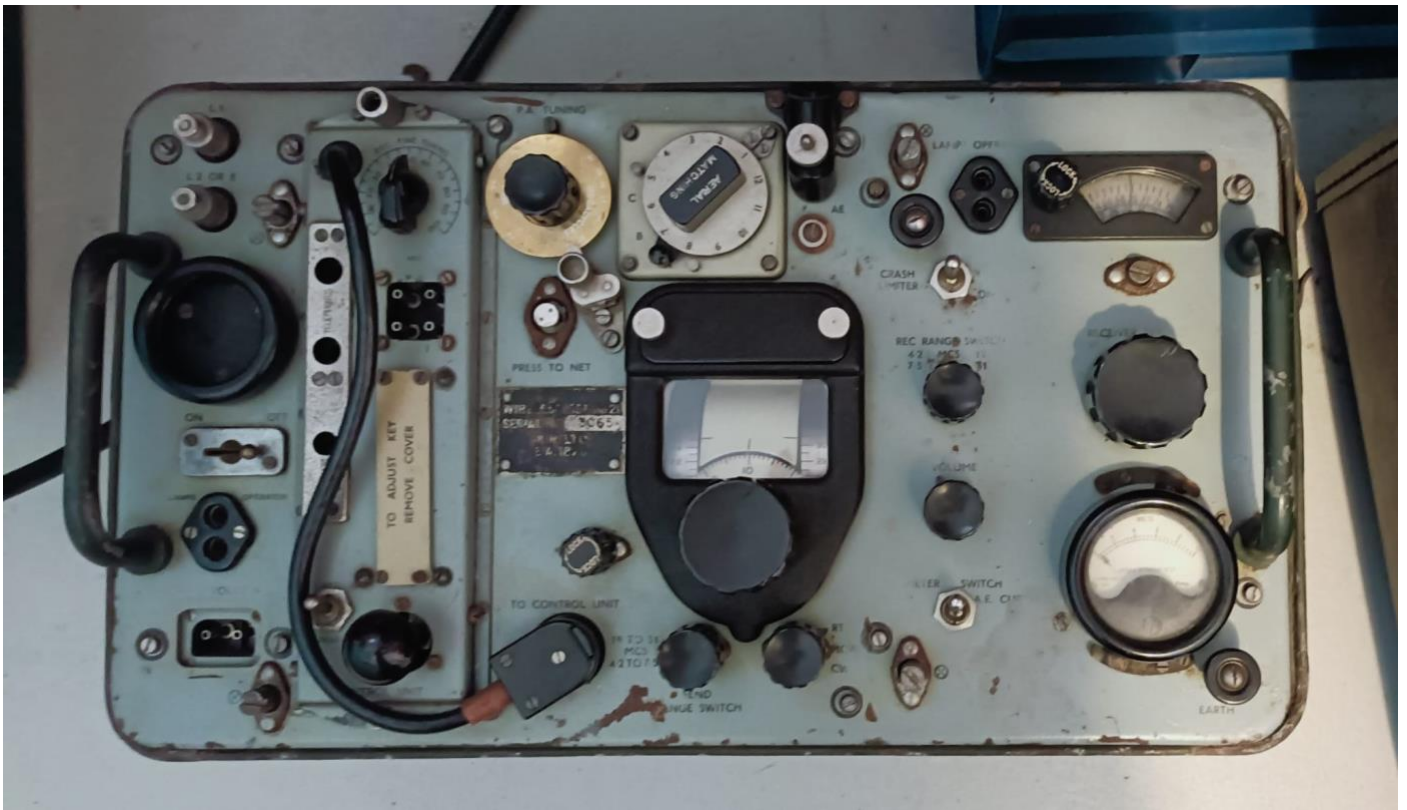
Fabulous sunny weather, great ocean views, and most stations had good comms all afternoon, except for the Erskine point chaps that struggled with QRM, dodgy PTT switch and being in a radio hole. Bryan's WS21 sets did exceptionally well.

The stations and radios were:

Aidan ZL3APB & Braden ZL3BRK @ Erskine point WS48, ZC1.
Des ZL3AK @ Guard hut, Mt Cavendish WS48.
Noel ZL4OW @ AA battery, Mt Pleasant WS48.
Mike ZL3MWD & Ray ZL3RAM @ Pillboxes, Barnet East ZC1, WS48.
Author ZL3KB @ Pillboxes, Taylor's Valley WS48, WS58.
Bryan ZL3BHS @ Carpark, Godley head WS48, ZC1, 2x WS21.

73s

Kelvin ZL3KB



ZL3KB's W.S. No. 21, reportedly the Best of British.

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Coastwatchers - Operation Pacific.

During the Second World War, New Zealand ran a coastwatching scheme throughout the Pacific. These coastwatchers were often locals from the Pacific Islands or from the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. The Coastwatchers offered an important service to New Zealand throughout the war; however the majority were volunteers and never formally enlisted with the New Zealand Defence Force. However, many were given military ranks post service, to allow their families to be granted war pensions.

They are the unsung heroes of the New Zealand war effort. From tin huts dotted across the remote islands of the South Pacific, local men, women, and in some cases entire villages, supported the covert intelligence network for the New Zealand war administration during WWII. This included observation posts in the Kermadec Islands, and the southern (Auckland & Campbell) Islands.

They were the eyes and ears of the Pacific Ocean, watching for strange ships and aircraft, listening into radio activity, and diligently reporting any activity back to New Zealand headquarters. Their native tongue gave the Pasifika Coastwatchers an added advantage: they leapfrogged secret encryptions from one island to the next, before it was sent using Morse code to Fiji and on to New Zealand, Australia, the US Services and the Admiralty.

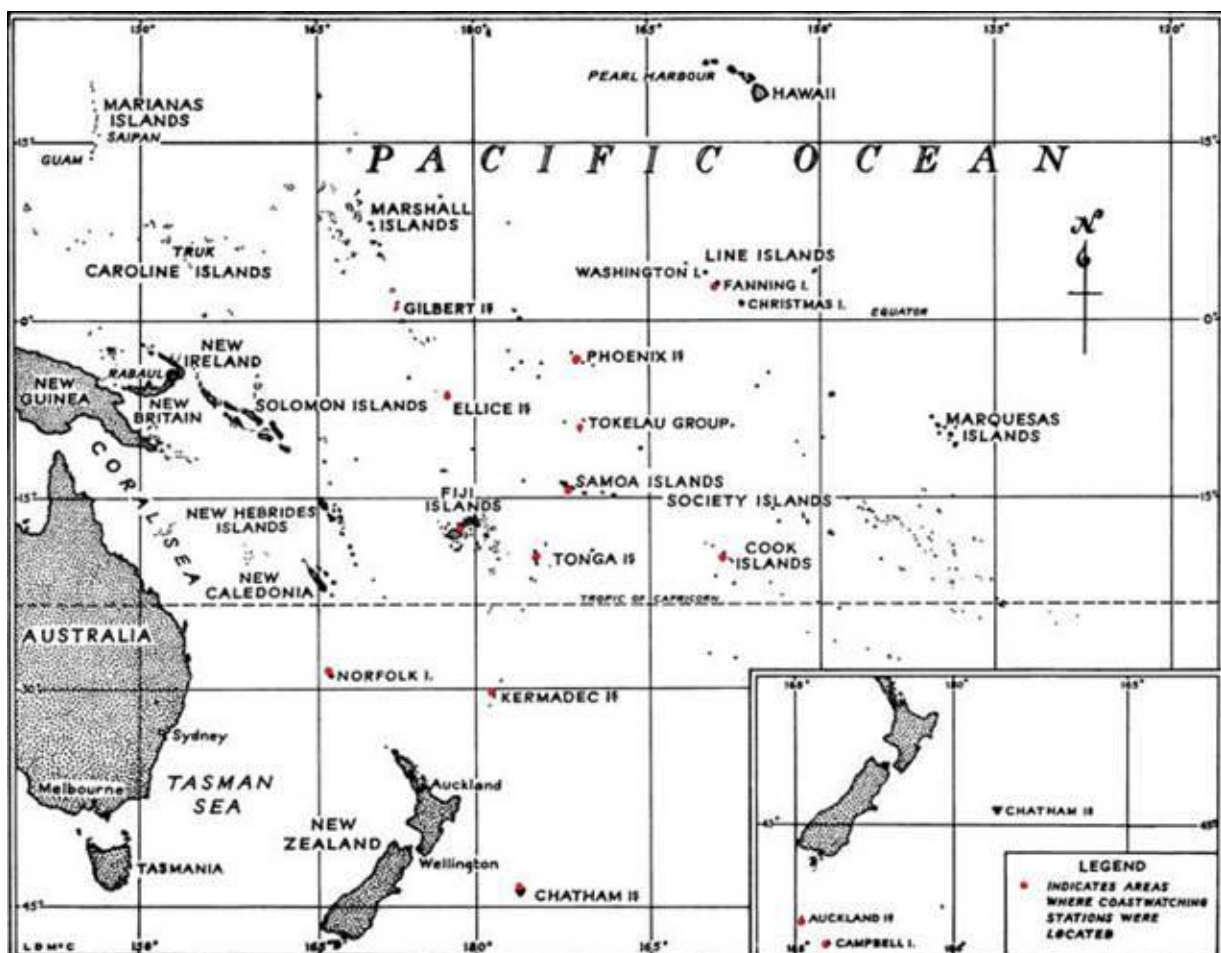
On the 15th October, it is the 81st anniversary of when 10 Soldiers, nine Coastwatchers, and five civilians were executed by Japanese troops on Tarawa Atoll in 1942. (see "page 27" account in the VUW URL below, for a "report on the incident".)

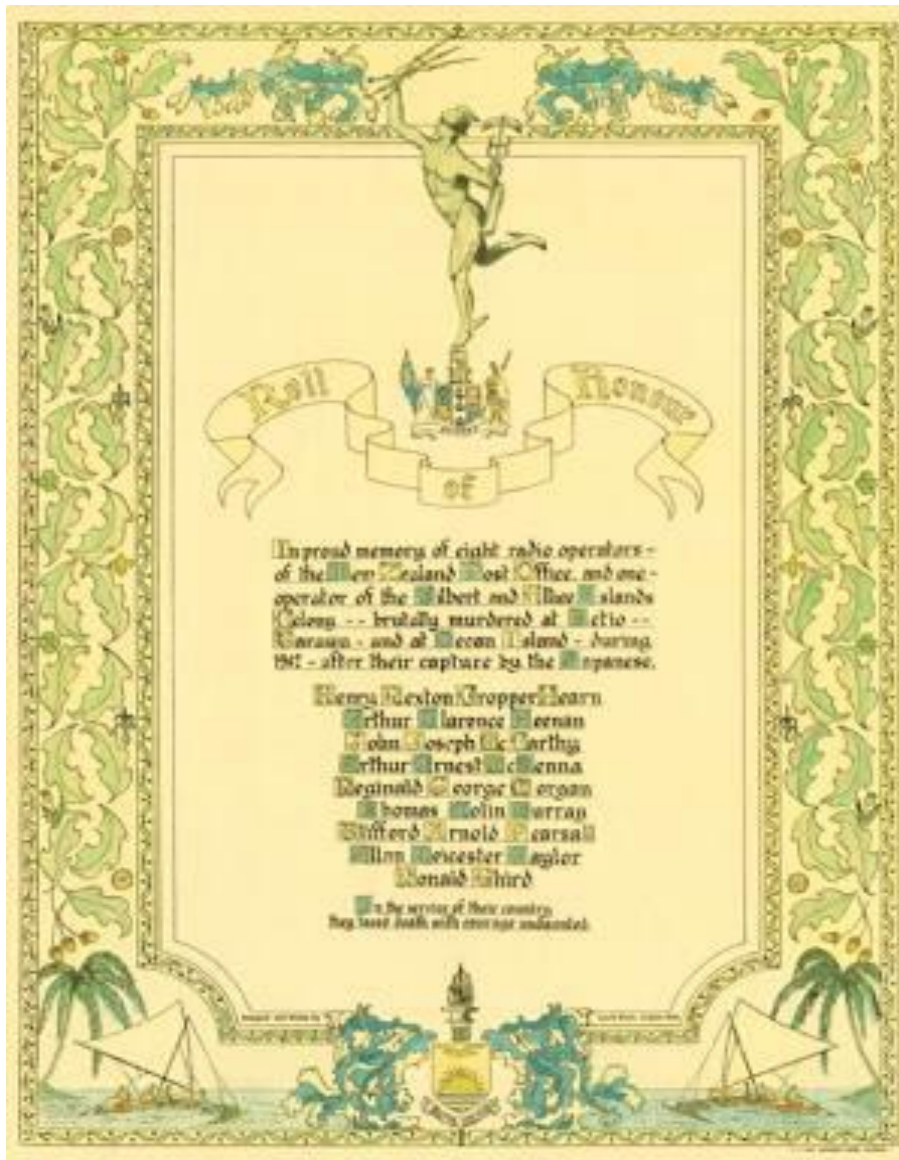
When researching Coast Watchers (in Google), be careful to include NZ in your search, as the Aussies have also written a great deal about their PNG/Solomon's activities.

The attached graphic is a memorial crafted by Len Black in 1946, and copies of this were hung in every NZPO Radio establishment. I saw this in Radio Section, Makara and at Awarua. I also saw a copy of this (in March 2023) hanging on the wall at the AERADIO museum at the Ashburton Airport (worth a visit). The graphic attached is a copy of the memorial hanging at Musick Point Radio.

There is also a memorial to these folk outside the old POHQ on the corner of Waterloo Quay, and Whitmore Street. (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/coastwatchers-memorial-wellington>, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/10587923/WWII-coast-watchers-honoured>) There is also a memorial plaque within the ground floor of POHQ, and a memorial at the National War Memorial.

They were brave boys!





The Commemorative Roll of Honour for the Coastwatchers at the Musick Point Memorial Radio Station.

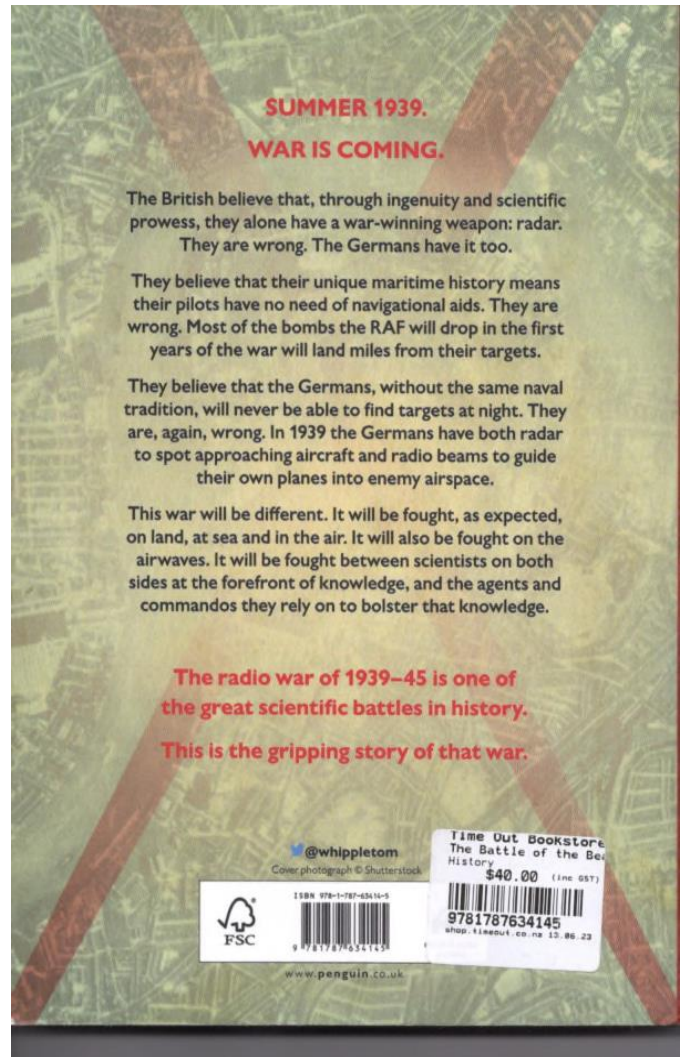
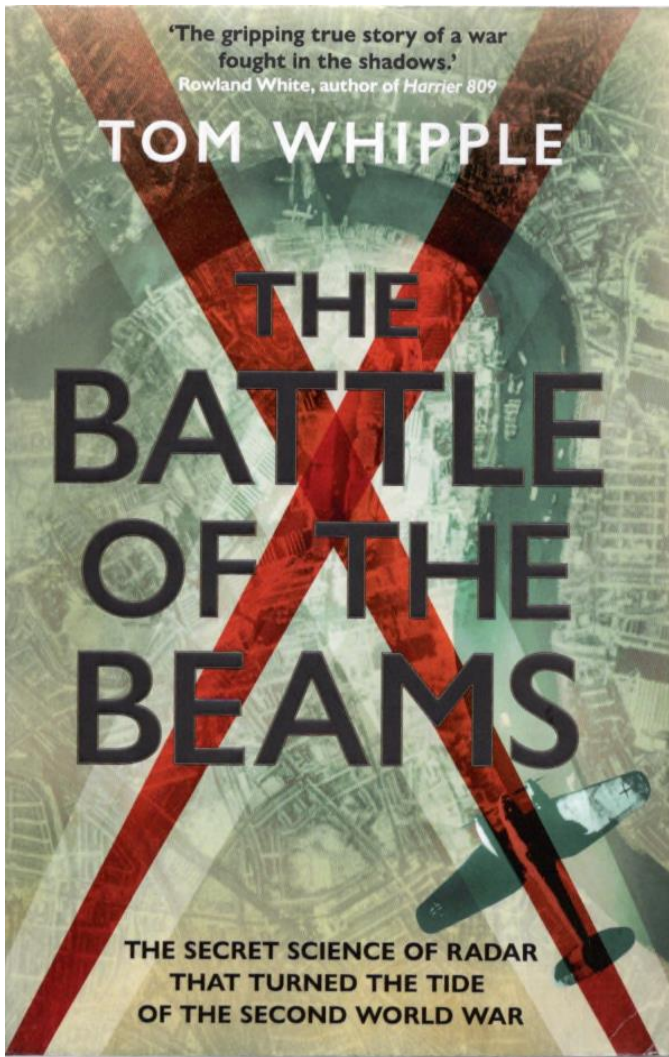
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Book Review

This was seen coincidentally while browsing recently, and is a very readable, but well researched story of the rapid development of the “electronic war” right from the beginning. It detailed the personal story of R.V. Jones and was enlightening regarding the technically advanced RADAR the Germans had, much more elegant than the British “Chain Home” from an engineering point of view. However, they were mainly designed to guide bombers to their target, not for defence, which is where they were found lacking as the war turned against them.

It also gives an account of the various types of direction finding culminating the development of “Gee” and the still-used DME (Distance Measuring Equipment) and TCAS (Collision Avoidance Systems) of today.

Note- we have for sale a Gee receiver, top secret in its day with the highly advanced EF50 valves. Check it out on- www.zlham.net.nz



For Sale, Wanted to buy, Give Aways-

From **Herman, VK2IXV-**

I am still chasing the **Ultimate Handkey.**

Happy to exchange for a Simplex Auto bug.

If you know anybody that would be willing to part with their Ultimate hand key, please let me know.

73, **Herman VK2IXV** email- hermanusw@gmail.com

That's all for this month.

73 from ZL3CK

