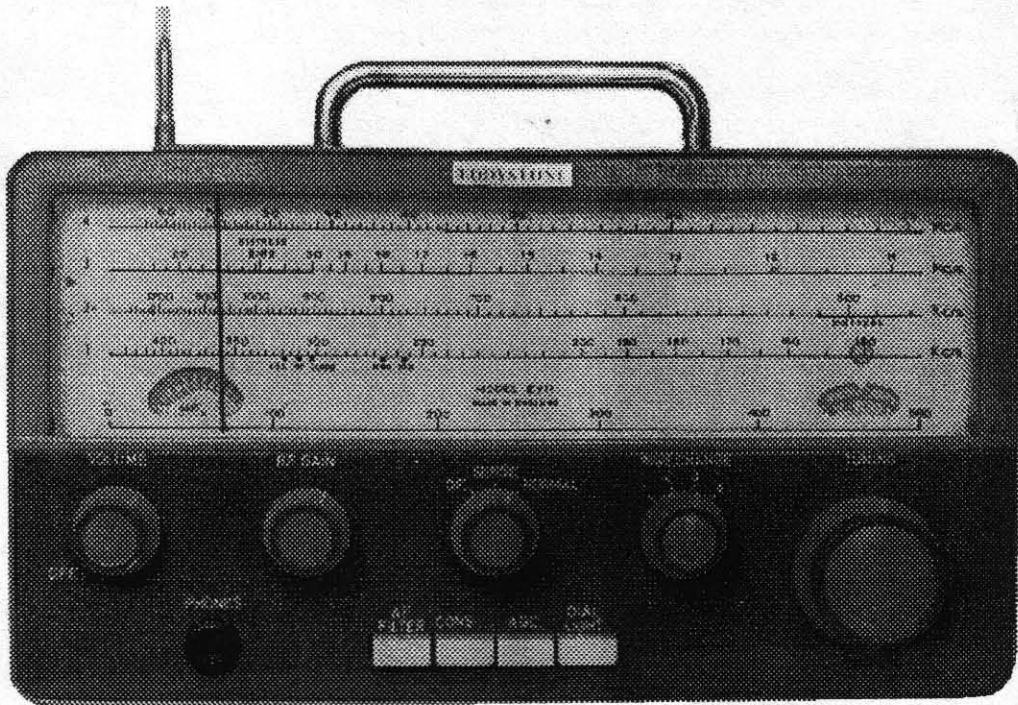


Eddystone User Group Newsletter



Issue No: 59

February 2000



Featured Model

The Eddystone EY11 'Yachtsman'

- A non profit newsletter for Eddystone Users
- Information quoted from Eddystone Literature by kind permission of Eddystone Radio Limited

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FRONTIS

It is now January and we seem to have survived the Christmas festivities and the Millennium bug. Graeme persuaded me to write a piece on the 1650 stolen radios. Hopefully it appears in this issue. (*you bet!*) Graeme also tells me he is going to send out the data sheet on the model 5600 HF FSK/VOICE Transceiver system. This was built around the Orion 5000 HF Channelised Transceiver which was a great success for us in the period 1985 until 1995. I remember we introduced the Orion to a Marconi agents' conference in Colchester in 1985 and amazed the delegates by using it on the ham bands with G6SL, the old pre-war Eddystone callsign. We even had a QSL card printed for such contacts.

We sold the Orion to aid agencies and other non-government agencies, including the Sudan Railways. This gave them a very simple-to-use 150W p.e.p. voice transceiver on up to 6 fixed crystal controlled channels. Although synthesized transceivers were available, many governments were unhappy about unrestricted frequency operation. With channelised equipment they could exercise some control.

We started to get enquiries from commercial organisations, such as banks, in the third world who were looking for ways to send RTTY traffic between branches and their head offices. We took the basic Orion and fitted a heavy duty power supply in order to cope with the increased duty cycle of FSK and fitted it in a cabinet with a 1529 demodulator, of which we sold many hundreds over the years, and a 1629 modulator. Later versions came with an ARQ system, which we bought from ICS (Peter Martinez fame).

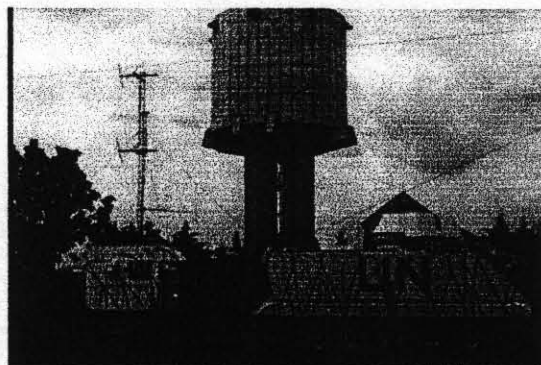
The original 1529's were developed to operate with mechanical teleprinters, but the version was designed to also work with a computer and we sold quite a few into West Africa, particularly Ghana and the Sudan. It was solid rugged and quite reliable, but eventually lower cost PC driven systems were available, using more exotic methods of sending data over HF. If memory serves me correctly the 5600 proved far more reliable in those countries than the PC's we sent with them.

It won't be long before we will be thinking about the Vintage Fair at the NEC (on Sunday, 30th April, this year). Graeme and the gang will be there to meet you - and take money off you. It is highly likely that EUG will also be represented at the Wythall rally near Birmingham on the 12th March. (see 'Ramblings' - Graeme)

Looking through some photographs the other day I came across some pictures taken in Rwanda, just after the UN had gained control following the terrible tribal massacres. Eddystone had a contract from the Overseas Development Agency to provide some self-powered 1kW FM transmitter relays to provide UN radio in the area. They were meant to be located at mountain sites but the security situation saw them located at secure sites in the valleys, which made them less usable as relays. Simon Garrett, our engineer on site, had to do some clever re-engineering to make a workable system from the equipment supplied. I remember the equipment being flown out in one of those super Antonov heavyweights. Good old days!

All the best 73's. Have a good read

Chris Pettitt
GOEYO - Patron
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FM Relay for UN Kibungo, Rwanda

E.U.G. NEWSLETTER

Issue 59, February 2000

Founded and Presented by Ted Moore

Formatting & Distribution by Graeme Wormald G3GGL; Computer Processing by Simon Robinson G8P00

It seems that the efforts of our EUG team at Christmas were appreciated, as several have written about the last issue. Graeme and Simon especially are to be complimented for their extra efforts. The first ever colour cover produced a number of complimentary comments too; now back to black and white!

“POO’s Ponderings” too, brought some comments, all very positive so we shall hope for more of the same from Simon. His mention of the Farnell Catalogue reminds me that both this and the RS set of catalogues are almost indispensable to those who DIY their own Eddystone servicing work.

The inclusion within the Instruction Booklet for the ‘All Wave Four’ of some practical information on Aerials and Earthing techniques reminded Eddie that all of this information is just as appropriate today as it was then in 1933 (the year that I too was first produced!). It need not be a Palm Tree though, any old kind will do, he says . . .

TED

ITEMS FROM TED'S MAILBOX

Multitone Electric Company

Here we go again, a request for help. A Swedish collector has in his possession a Type TA38 Transmitter, which was made by Multitone Electric Company.

It would appear that this item was a crystal controlled job covering just 3 to 4 Mc/s and with approximately 5 watts of RF output. If you are able to help, then you may send the gen to me (Ted) and I shall pass it on to Anthony. Thanks.

'Amateur Radio Techniques' by Pat Hawker, G3VA

A reminder from Dave that if you are considering making any small items of test gear or making any minor mods to your receivers (!!) then the above book will surely be of interest to you. The local library will either have it in stock or will order it for you. The 1985 copy has chapters dealing with both valve and transistorised equipment, both receivers and transmitters.

Received with Thanks

A letter from Peter, AGM0VOU, re his visit to another EUGer to purchase a 730/4. This 250 mile round trip was an eye-opener for Peter. He was able to double his 'collection' of Eddystones from 1 to 2! More importantly he was invited by the other EUG member to view the 'shack' and admire the collection. Peter says that he felt like a child

who had stumbled into Santa's workshop.

Not only did he come away reflecting upon the common bond which joins us EUGers, but he was able to experience the honesty and fairness of the Gentleman involved. Since the vendor is one of our more active members I happen to recognise him from Peter's letter. Thanks POO. TED.

Valves - of Pensionable age

From Jim we hear of his experience whilst re-valving his venerable 670A. This was the first time ever despite Jim having owned this set since 1986, so he thought it was about time to pension off the old bottles.

The full set was bought from various sources and the fateful evening came. A quick check on several of the stations which are on his usual schedule and then power down to remove the set from its case. The amount of dust was amazing and required some use of the car mini-Hoover, but then the valves were cooled sufficiently to be removed. As a matter of safety each socket was marked with a pencil to indicate the valve used. The new ones were fitted carefully and a double check was made that all occupied the correct sockets before the power was applied.

It was immediately apparent that the set had been in need of new valves. The hum level from the speaker was definitely reduced, it

had been judged acceptable before, yet was now no longer audible on a quiet channel. Tuning to the previously checked-out signals showed some audible improvement of the signal to noise level.

In order to verify that these results were not purely imaginary the old valves went back in for a last check, very definitely they were at fault and they were binned as being of no further use.

The 670A is now getting more use than ever before and has become a major source of pleasure, not just for Jim. His XYL has now discovered the joys of listening to overseas broadcasts.

Jim doesn't mind this togetherness and is hoping to translate it into the purchase of another Eddystone!

'Hot' 640

This is not a new idea but as it has just been sent in by an EUGer here goes - AGAIN.

The 640 gets pretty warm in a smallish shack during the hot British summer. New mains transformers are unobtainable and rewinds are hellish expensive, as this EUGer knows from having paid £39 to have his done last Summer!

His first move was to remove the 6V6 and fit a 6J5 triode. No other changes in components; a reduction in audio output but

since he always uses 'phones there is still an adequate supply of audio. This reduces the LT load considerably.

His next step is to prop open the lid with two rubber feet just 1/2" high, allowing more cooling circulation.

The last job was to remove the multitude of Reference books such as the ARRL Handbook, the Radio Listeners' guide, etc., which were using the 640 as a book end - in the process these books were blocking off the vents in the case.

The 640 was also moved slightly forward on the operating table so that there is a gap for air to circulate at the rear. These moves do ake the set run noticeably cooler and it is hoped that even a blistering hot summer will not affect the operation of this 640. Bill.

Aerial Static - Update

Sam has been experimenting with various methods of 'doing away with' this nuisance. His first experiment was with almost identical out-door random wires, one of which was bare copper and the other was plastic insulated wire. The plentiful rain has been helpful here, and the plastic covered wire is definitely better.

His next test was with the bare wire aerial taken to earth through a 5 kilohm resistor of about 5 watts rating. With this in circuit the signals were but slightly attenuated but the static was totally eliminated. Switching it in and out of circuit proved its efficacy. The use of a similar resistor at the receiver end of the

aerial also eliminated the static but caused rather more attenuation of the signals.

His new aerial is of plastic-covered wire and with the 5000 ohm resistor wired to earth at the far end. So far he has had no further static problems, thus ending several years of vexation with this phenomenon. Ted.

A Modified 750

This 750 was bought several months back and had been owned by many enthusiasts previously. Whilst having no previous experience with this set it was soon realised that the audio was much more 'woolly' than on the other Eddystones in the shack. A 'phone call to another EUGer who has owned a 750 for several years confirmed that this was not normal with this model.

A quick look underneath the chassis soon identified an alien component, which was apparently of WW II vintage. This was an aluminium potted 15 muff condenser which appeared to be wired across R42, the kathode bias resistor in the output valve circuit.

Now a look at the circuit diagram for this set will show that no kathode decoupler was ever fitted here. This has the effect of providing a degree of negative feedback to the output stage and hence improving the quality of the audio reproduction. Removal of this alien item brought the sound back to what appears to be its normal brilliance. Quality on this set on a good strong signal is sufficient for an 8" boxed speaker to be used

with extremely pleasurable results.

As a matter of interest the offending condenser was tested and found to measure 'okay' for dielectric insulation but rather than the expected, and marked, 15 muffs it comes up to circa 8 muffs on the tester. One interesting point is that this condenser was weeping a small amount of oil. Now IF this is the usual kind of oil used in those far-off days for insulating purposes then it is toxic polychlorinated bi-phenyl oil and should not be allowed to remain on the skin. The component needs to be disposed of carefully, too.

Replica Spares

A letter from one EUGer which echoes several letters received over the past months. He asks why cannot we, that is EUG, have items such as scale plates re-manufactured for sale to EUGers.

Well, the reason is basically one of cost! A few moments of thought will show just how onerous this would be. No two models use the same scale plate. A minimum order for us to provide them at a reasonable price would have to be several hundred of EACH model. We have neither the finances nor the storage space for such an enterprise, so SORRY, it must remain 'pie in the sky' for the time being. I have promised myself that if nobody else has gone down this road by then I shall look into the matter myself as this will give me something to occupy my time as a retired but still active enthusiast. Ted.



The 820 AM/FM Tuner Unit

Derek has one of these which has always given sterling service in his shack. Fed into a 5 watt Mullard amplifier, this provides his listening music whilst he is involved in other more esoteric work on the bench.

The 820 suddenly became somewhat capricious when used on the FM band. Switched on it would work at first then simply go dead, just the faintest of background hiss but not one iota of signal anywhere on the FM band, but okay on AM.

Since no valves have ever been changed in the years he has owned the 820 it was deemed possible, even probable, that this was the cause for the loss of signal. By cannibalising the various other receivers in the shack and raiding the small stock of spare valves it was possible to ascertain that the culprit was the 12AT7 in the V2 position (the VHF/FM frequency changer).

A new 12AT7 was obtained and fitted but the set still would not work, even though it had worked with a Mullard valve pinched from an audio amplifier. The new valve was Brand named 'PINNACLE', one very common in the '50s era.

It worked okay in the audio amplifier but when tested on the AVO valve tester it gave only about 50% emission on both halves, yet it was manifestly 'new' from its packing. It was removed and the set was put back into use with the Mullard valve from the audio amplifier until another could be sourced. When this was

received, another Mullard, this worked fine.

There is a corollary to this tale. At the suggestion of a member of the local radio club the Pinnacle valve was left on overnight with just the heater supply connected. Next morning it was again tested for emission and, surprise, surprise, the emission was now up to about 905 for both triode sections. The explanation is that long storage had permitted poisoning of the cathode material to take place. Boiling off the surface coating of the cathode had 'cured' this.

FUSES !

A reminder from somebody calling himself "Once bitten, twice shy" about the necessity of checking the fuses fitted in your newly, or recently acquired Eddystone set. Maybe in that one you have proudly owned for some years.

When the mains transformer in his 888 began to boil last month Stuart quickly switched off the ergs and did some investigating inside the set. He soon found that C100 (reservoir smoothing electrolytic) was duff and replaced this - the set appears to be okay with the transformer seemingly operating at normal temperature once more.

The big worry is why did the fuse in the secondary winding centre tap not 'blow' to protect the valve and transfo ? He had a look and found the fuse fitted was a 10 amp of the type used formerly in many cars. Since the receiver has a total NORML HT consumption of 110

milliamps you can see the problem with having a 10 amp fuse here, NO PROTECTION>

The correct value was fitted and the set put back into its case. At this point all other fuses were checked and it was found necessary to replace two others, which were very liberally over-rated. BE WARNED !

740 Aerial Impedance

Some of the older models had an aerial impedance which was usually given as 400 ohms throughout the ranges covered. This is not exactly suited to use with a dipole which has a centre impedance more nearly approximating to 75 ohms.

After several years of ownership of his 740 this EUGer rather shamefacedly admitted that he had never considered this fact until he was re-reading the booklet he got with his 740. Now he has two aerials for use with this set, both are simple dipoles for firstly 7 Mc/s and secondly for 28 Mc/s.

Rather than go out into the winter cold and wet he simply rewired his dipoles to operate as 'T' aerials by shorting the dipole halves together by connecting the co-ax inner and outer in the shack. Reception is definitely improved with stronger signals on both chosen bands.

Reception also appears better when listening on other bands and it is decided to leave the aerials as is for now. When warmer weather arrives new aerials will be put up which mirror the present temporary setup.



HELP, with a 556/B

David has one of these rare beasts and is looking for something better than the old mechanical vibrator unit which has developed the nasty habit of contacts sticking, rather welding together.

Dave is certain that he has somewhere read of a solid-state replacement for this purely mechanical vibrator. Question: can anybody please help with either the source for these solid-state devices or, possibly direct him to a source of info for constructing a solid-state one himself? (6 volt system)

3 Valve Straight Receiver circa 1947 ?

Where did this surface from??? At a recent swapmeet Ian was astonished to recognise an Eddystone metal case of the type often used in the 30s and 40s for their one or two valve kit sets. A quick shufti inside showed a 3 valve design with very solid silver-plated coils.

The front panel had the usual half-moon cutout for the scale. Definitely all Eddystone bits such as variable condenser with brass vanes, paxolin coupler for the same item. Rf choke, valve bases etc., all of Eddystone manufacture. Even down to a simple rivetted-on label saying STRATTONS on the back.

A thorough check shows that the set is a straight VHF receiver and with the plug-in coil fitted it appears to cover about 27 Mc/s to 34 Mc/s – as best as can be ascertained with a grid-dip meter. The set has an

EF54, an EF50 and a 6J7 fitted.

It took many hours of (pleasurable and nostalgic) perusal of the Eddystone Short Wave Manuals to discover, in ESWM 6, (1947) that this is therein documented. There appear to be one or two differences in component values, mainly in the audio stage but it looks as though it ought to work. Work is now in hand for a suitable PSU and a reception report will be given to Ted when this set is fired up.

Date for the S.358

Whilst the Factory used to say that this set first came out in 1941 I have myself seen the odd advert for a 358 which pre-dates this by several years. One old Admiralty handbook for, I think, 1938 had a picture of it. I used to own an Admiralty manual for the 358, which had notes dated in the early part of 1940.

Now comes a letter from Barry Hill, not an EUGer by the way, who mentions that he saw a 358 with a dark blue front panel when he was down in Southampton and that this was before Dunkirk, as he never went back there afterwards. The B34 was the RN version and this usually had a light blue panel, at least in later production models. Nowadays we usually find the sets with light grey panels.

Is there anybody out there who can help to shed some light on this question please? When did it first see the light of day?

Thanks Ted.

DAB Broadcasting

This has become somewhat of a damp squib, as despite the recent spot ads for their DAB services the Beeb has not been able to persuade any of the manufacturers to come out with a decently-priced receiver.

What Aunty also omits to mention is that you will need a totally new outside aerial system to successfully receive DAB signals, be it in a car or at home. So far as I know there is but one domestic model and maybe two car models on the market, all at very inflated prices.

One wonders why one should convert to this format if digital signals can now be had via the Internet or over satellite-based systems? Is it time to save the Beeb's money and close the system down? This question was recently asked in a newspaper article and I have been having thoughts along those lines myself. Why is I needed? Most folk are happy with the signal quality they get from FM broadcasts anyway.

Power Supply Diodes

A letter asking about replacements for those DD006 diodes as used in some of the later sets for rectifying the HT supply. They are also used across aerial and earth connectors of some sets for static protection.

The very best replacement is the ubiquitous 1N4007 obtainable anywhere for pennies. They are rated at 1 ampere and so can quite



easily cope with the HT of any of our models. They can often be found on scrap PCBs in boxes at Rallies so well worth keeping a look out there too. No harm in having some spares to hand.

James also mentions that it is well worth using them to replace the hot and power-wasteful mains rectifiers in many of the AC Eddystone models. Either soldered across the valve base pins or better to my mind, soldered into the base of an old - defunct - valve.

The 'OLD' Model 840

This AC/DC set has always felt much more of a true comms; receiver to me than, say, the later /A or /C versions. It appears to have more solid signal capabilities and despite the old type rectangular scales it can give a good account of itself on the air these days.

In the more than 20 years that Tom has owned his 840 he says that it has been his ONLY receiver yet apart from once being re-valved it has only ever required the replacement of one resistor. This was R30, the 10 Kiloohm in the Anode circuit of the BFO. Even this going open circuit did not take the set off the air, just prevented use of the BFO for a couple of days.

Since the day it was purchased at a mere £12 this 840 has earned its keep; it is always run from the mains via an Isolation/Dropper transfo so that the receiver is run from 110 volts. The transfo used is of the 'saturated core' type, such as were common for Tv sets in the 1950s when fluctuating mains

supplies were often the cause of shrinking pictures. It works well too, as has been verified with an AVO across the AC mains, which go up and down a bit in Tom's rural location.

Lack of Preparation ?

When the 750 was purchased and carried home it was done on a spur of the moment decision. When the set was plugged in but remained completely mute consternation set in. A quick check on the input for continuity, and of the fuse showed no problem but it remained as 'dead as a dodo'. No circuit or manual was to hand and so it was necessary to be patient until one was obtained, via EUG.

It took still more head-puzzling before investigation of the power supply circuitry showed the presence of a socket carrying the DC supplies, and the lack of matching shorting plug to patch these supplies back into the set. Not having the requisite plug it was necessary to solder links across the pins under the chassis.

Now, IF ONLY I had been able to plan ahead and get the booklet and circuit beforehand things would have been quite different. I would not have had to sit looking at a completely DEAD 750 for 10 days!!! The motto is always "Think before you leap (or buy).

ANDY.

Eddystone Light - Replica

I have been told that somewhere in the West Country there exists a 150 foot high replica of the Eddystone Lighthouse, built

many miles inland and apparently one of those 'Follies' so beloved of our forebears.

Question: where is it? Can any EUGer please supply s with info re this interesting replica? Maybe even a decent photograph that we can publish in the Newsletter?

I am quite astonished that this has not previously been brought to our notice, so PLEASE, tell us. Ted.



Keep the
Questions &
Answers
coming to:-

Ted's Mailbox
C/o Jim Murphy
62, Wrose Road
BRADFORD
BD2 1LN



THE QUEST FOR A '909'

BY
ANTHONY RICHARDS GW4RYK

Not Very Exotic?

I don't really know why I was so keen to find a 909, partly I suppose because it brings together my interests in radio and boats and partly because it is one of the 'slide rule dial' h.f. receivers that I seem to collect. The 909 is a 2 band receiver covering 1.6 - 4.7 MHz, plus a 2182 kHz crystal for monitoring the marine calling and distress frequency. It is a.m. only and thus not a particularly useful bit of kit, all things considered. Ted summed it up very succinctly - "not a very exotic animal, is it? But still a nice addition to anybody's collection".

Free of Charge . . .

The 909 model went almost exclusively to Sweden, I believe, so there are probably no more than half a dozen in the U.K.. I had tried one or two adverts in the Swedish version of 'Loot' (Lööt ?) free of charge, but with no result. Then The Cooke Report in a recent Newsletter mentioned the 909 and the Swedish Eddystone agent of the time, Olle Hermansson, SM0GOO. Something of a long shot 40 years on but yes, there was Olle in the International Callbook, so I dropped him a line asking if he knew of any 909s still around and soon had a reply. He mentioned that he still kept in touch with Bill Cooke, and that he had made some enquiries and understood that the Radio Museum in Gothenburg might have one surplus to requirements. He gave me the home phone number of Evert, the director, whom I telephoned. I said I was calling about Eddystone radios - "distressed ladies?" - "no, no, Eddystone radios!" - much laughter all round, then - "ah, it's my father you want!" So along came Evert but regretfully no, he'd had a look in the museum and whilst there were indeed one or two Eddystones there wasn't a 909 to be seen.

Forgotten to Insert . . .

So that was a blind alley but I had the bit between my teeth now and got onto the Internet, calling up the Föreningen Sveriges Sändareamatörer (well, who else?), the Swedish equivalent of the RSGB. Was there, I asked, anyone who may know about Eddystones? Not particularly, came the reply from Eric, SM0JSM, but if I would like to compose a short paragraph asking about a 909 they would put it into the August issue of their QTC magazine, in the 'help required' section. This I did, August came and went but no response. I e-mailed Eric again and found that the editor had forgotten to insert the item, but would definitely put it in the October issue. Well, come October my e-mail contained two replies from Sweden, both offering 909s - bingo !!

E-Mails Flew . . .

The first one was offered by Ove, SM7DLH - it was said to be in good condition, particularly the dial and escutcheon plate which always seem to me to be the most important items as they must be very difficult if not impossible to restore properly. A few e-

mails flew back and forth and a price of 1000 Krone was agreed, about £75. Then there was the matter of getting it home; this was actually more difficult than I'd expected, so in the end I got onto my friend Ron, GW3YDX, at Vine Antennas who buys and sells stuff all over the world. He was able to organise collection and thus it was, about a week later, that I called at The Vine to pick up the 909.

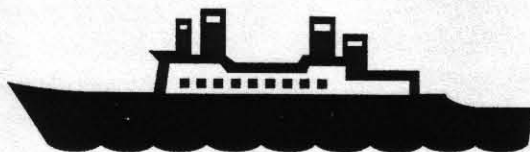
Opened with a Chisel . . .

The wooden box was opened with a chisel and some trepidation and I'm pleased to say that the condition of the set was up to and in fact exceeded expectations. It is actually a *little* exotic, Ted, in that the escutcheon is of anodised aluminium and thus is very bright and shiny and the controls have the normal 'default' positions marked in red (Eddystone for Dummies ?). The other peculiarity is that the case is of the sheet steel type like the 840C, 940, etc., whereas the front panel is of the diecast variety such as is found on the 840A, 888, etc. At the rear there is an 8 pin Jones plug which brings in the mains, speaker out to bridge, headphones and muting for when transmitting. The aerial socket is of the 259 variety, it *looks* original but I wonder whether it is ?

Future Promise . . .

The second 909 ? This was offered by another amateur and is said to be in mint condition, however at present it is at his 'summer house' so he is going to bring it home next time he goes and then give me a detailed condition report - I'll have to wait and see.....

Thus it seems that perseverance can pay off, all I have to do now is figure out similar ways of acquiring the remaining sets I would like, these being the 910 (Marconi HR101), the 960 - and possibly an 850 and an EM34 should I come across them !



DON'T FORGET . . .

Enquiries for spare parts and orders for
Handbooks, and back-numbers of Newsletters
should go to Dave Simmons at 'Windana House'

North Aston, Bicester, Oxon. OX6 4HX

Tel: 01869 347504

E-mail: eddyspare@onet.co.uk

NEWS FLASH . . .

“Short Wave Magazine” August 1965

**EDDYSTONE RADIO LIMITED TO CONTINUE
AS MARCONI SUBSIDIARY**

Stratton & Company Ltd., manufacturers of the well-known Eddystone range of radio communication receivers and accessories since 1923, has now been officially renamed Eddystone Radio Limited. This follows the announcement that the Stratton radio interests had been acquired by English Electric, and that the company would be operated as a subsidiary of The Marconi Company.

The Board of directors of the new company will consist of Mr. F. N. Sutherland, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of The Marconi Company, who will be the chairman of Eddystone Radio Ltd; Mr. R. Telford, General Manager of The Marconi Company; Mr. H. N. Cox, formerly technical director of Stratton; and Mr. A. C. Edwards (G6XJ), formerly commercial director of Stratton.

Mr. Cox (58) and Mr. Edwards (59) will retain executive responsibility for the new company, and the existing structure will be disturbed as little as possible – both have been with the firm for nearly 40 years.

Eddystone Radio produce a range of receivers which runs through the frequency scale from 10 kc to 1000 mc. The company has a world-wide reputation, and Eddystone receivers have been sold in practically every country in the world. Over 50 per cent of the output is now sold directly into the export market, and considerably more passes indirectly through other companies such as Marconi, who themselves export equipment bought from Eddystone.



HELP REQUIRED

EUGer Roger Bebbington, M0BWP, of 64 Stafford Rd, Toll Bar, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 3JH, writes as follows:-

“I have a Taylor 45A Series 1 valve tester in a wooden case, which is in good working order. I am looking to extend its range to the modern valve era, B9A, B7G, etc. I also have the manuals to cover these. Can anyone help with the pin wiring, either to make plug-in adaptors or to fit additional valveholders in the wooden tool compartment, it's not as straightforward as it first seemed.” ●

20 Years on . . .

Experience with an 840A

This EUGer, who has many happy memories of the 840A he bought in the 1950s, was recently loaned an 840A by another EUGer hoping for a sale. Several minutes reading the 840A booklet to re-acquaint himself with the set and then he set to work. The aerial was about 30 feet of random wire hanging vertically down the outside wall.

Noise level was higher than had been remembered, but was this the set or just modern 'conditions' ? – the latter, he believes. The bands certainly seemed more occupied than of yore and he deplored the amount of man-made interference; squeaks and burbles everywhere. No doubt from the many TVs and computers.

The set performed well and appeared to be very carefully calibrated; within seconds his 20 years 'off the air' had evaporated and he was listening to such stations as Radio Iran, Swiss Radio International, and then Radio Australia, all at good strength. He found HF Airband stuff on SSB too and was decided. He just had to have another SW receiver.

Then he was shown an EC10 and allowed to try that. The extra £15 for this mini Eddystone was no problem and he left with the EC10 under his arm. He does admit to a few pang at leaving the 840A, but when finances permit, and the XYL agrees, then he will have one to go alongside his new toy.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wythall RC Millennium Radio & Computer Rally
Birmingham, Sunday, 12th March 2000
(see the radio press and 'Ramblings' for details)

National Vintage Communications Fair
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
Sunday 30th April 2000

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE!

The 888 on SSB

This refers to the original 888 and not to the later 888A version. What happened was that I bought a pretty decent-looking set that did appear to offer some advantages for listening to amateur band SSB over what I had been using for many years. This was a venerable ex-RAF R.1475 aka the Receiving Unit 88. Dating from the late 1940s this set was State of the Art in its day but it has always been a bit noisy. The fact that the 888 is a dedicated Ham Bands Only set meant that the bands are spread out over the full scale and not cramped up as on the rotary scale of the R.1475 where each band occupies just millimetres. The whole tuning mechanism on the 888 is an improvement, being far more 'silky' than the rotary scale of the 1475.

The 888 worked fine when carted home and plugged in. The 132 foot long wire fed via a DIY tuning unit seemed to suit the 888 on all bands except maybe the LF end of Top Band, perhaps a bit more L is needed. The lack of Product Detector did not appear to hamper reception of SSB so long as the RF gain could be kept down, and I had no intention of doing any irreversible mods. I tend to the opinion that no amateur can improve on what a professional has designed and built. With this in mind I sat down with the schematic and the booklet that came with the 888, with the chassis out on the table before me. The first point is that the AVC is switched off by the same switch that turns the BFO on. The second point is that the detector stage is not totally suitable for SSB as is. No major changes were decided on but several minor changes have improved the 'usability' of this model considerably.

Some air tests had shown that the BFO coverage was much too wide for SSB, a

common failing on early models. Ted's suggestion of tweaking off one of the plates from the BFO tuning condenser is not necessary. The same result can be obtained by simply inserting an 18 pf silver mica condenser in series with the lead to the stator. Some experimentation to suit individual tastes may be done with values between 33 and 10 pf. In practice this gives about +/- 1.8 Kc/s swing, thus enabling better control of SSB signals.

One other small mod was to shunt the ONL diode, part of the 6AL5, with a 1N4148 diode. The improvement by this mod costing literally one penny is very noticeable so don't knock it until you try it. The 1N4148 cuts down considerably on the noise peaks in between signal bursts, it also limits the level of signal getting to the AF amplifier. You must simply be aware that the polarity must be as with the diode it is shunting, i.e. cathode end to chassis.

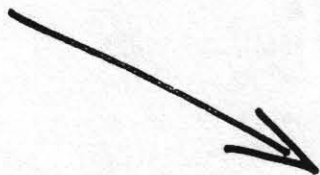
Before putting the set back into its case there was one major task to complete, that of returning the BFO to zero beat with the knob indicator at 12 o'clock. Trimming the BFO core should be done using a good solid carrier such as that generated by one of the Standard Frequency Signals. Once done one may mark the location on the BFO tuning scale for LSB and USB, in my case these come at approximately 10.30 and 14.30 and they are marked with a dot of Tippex.

Try the Ecuadorian station on 3810 kc/s, it is usually audible around breakfast time in the UK. Very little has been done to the 'innards' of this 888 and yet it is now much more user-friendly than before. The 1475 is still in the shack usually tuned to RAF Volmet and ready as a standby receiver.

Bob.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



Megahertz Communications Win Export Award

Cambridge, England 23/11/1999



The Export Award for Smaller Businesses is designed to recognise, reward and encourage outstanding export achievement. The scheme has been running annually since 1969 and is the only Government-backed scheme specifically targeted at small-to-medium sized companies.

At the Award Dinner, held 22 November 1999, Managing Director, Ashley Coles was presented with the "Eastern Region" award by Mr Richard Caborn MP, Minister for Trade.

[Click Here](#) to goto the official export award website

Megahertz Win Contract to build Kenyan TV & Radio Station

Cambridge, England 07/06/1999

Megahertz Communications Ltd. have secured a contract to design and install Kenya's first digital TV station. 'The Nation' group, famous for the newspaper of the same name, hope to capitalise on their position as the leading newspaper in the country with this new venture. The Nation is the countries largest media group, and this represents a major investment into broadcasting for them.

The new station is to be installed on the sixth floor of the prestigious Nation Building in central Nairobi. While the initial aim is to cover the Nairobi area, it is intended that the service area will eventually extend to the whole country.

The Television Station represents only the second all-digital station to go on-air in Africa. The first being e.TV (Midi TV), based in Cape Town, South Africa. Megahertz were also the main contractors for that project, and the station was completed earlier this year by the Cambridge-based firm.

The Nation TV complex will consist of a three-camera production studio, together with a single camera presentation with video file server and transmission studio. Alongside the studios, a viewing room and a total of 3 Avid edit suites will be installed. The aim is to have the studios on-air before Christmas this year.

The contract is the successful conclusion to extensive discussions between Megahertz personnel

<http://www.megahertz.co.uk/PressRelease/pressrelease.htm>

19/12/99

THE 770R Mk II – IMPROVEMENTS in PERFORMANCE

By Brian R Cauthery, VE3DFC, Ontario.

A huge change in communications technology has occurred since LO 0330, my 770R Mk II, first saw the light of day. Its first owner was the C.B.C. They kept it in clean, dry surroundings for about 20 years and cared for it well. I have owned it for 10 years during which time it has had 4 or 5 new tubes and an alignment.

At the Vintage Communications Fair last May, Graeme remarked to me that the SSB reception on the 770's was marred by less than state of the art stability . . . I agreed; following the SSB stations up and down the band to compensate for drift does detract from the enjoyment of a QSO.

In October, I decided to see if anything could be done to improve the 770's performance without cutting holes or chopping the circuit about. So off with the cabinet and with the circuit, manual and set on the bench, I was surprised to find that Eddystone had already thought of the solutions and they had punched or drilled the needed holes. Except for one, that is.

THE BFO:- The BFO is weak and when you realise that the triode-strapped 6BA6 (V12) has only 56v on the plate, it is no wonder that the BFO is anaemic. Now R84 in the plate circuit is 68K ohms. A shorting wire across this resistor increases the plate voltage to 110v and my! - does that make the CW & SSB performance better! ½" of wire, 2 solder joints and R84 stays in place.

OSCILLATOR DRIFT:- This is a bit more complicated (but not much). The RF, Mixer and Oscillator tubes are all supplied with 150v HT from the VR150 stabiliser tube V18. This wasn't a bad design 35 years ago (45 years, actually. *The 770R Mk II is the same as the Mk I – Graeme.*) but 99% of the HF ham stations are on SSB today.

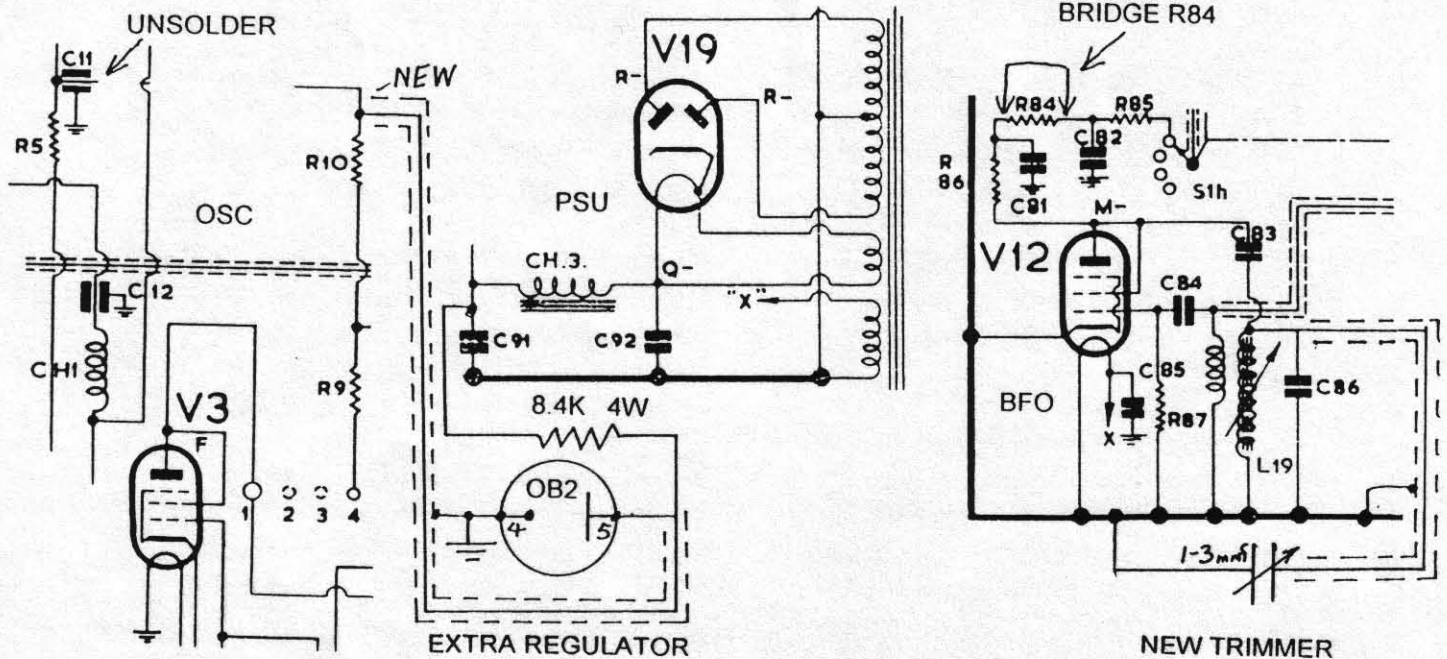
So leave the RF and Mixer circuits untouched and give the HF Oscillator V3 its own own separate stabilised HT and there should be less re-tuning in pursuit of signal legibility.

Right in the middle of the 770R Mk II's power supply chassis there is a vacant B7G tube socket-hole – already punched exactly in the correct location for an OB2, which has an operating voltage of 108v and the main HT supply (224v) is fine for the 133v minimum strike voltage. Since the 6AK5 Oscillator tube V3 needs 110v at 2.5ma on the plate, the OB2 is just right with 15ma current through it.

I used an 8200 ohm wire-wound 4 watt resistor from the downstream end of choke CH3 (red wire end) to pin 5 of the OB2. Pin 4 is grounded to the rail which connects all smoothing electrolytics in the power section to the 770R chassis. Now, run a screened lead from the same pin 5 of the OB2 through the very convenient plastic conduit which contains the main supply wires. This conduit emerges in the space between the front panel and the chassis front wall. Immediately behind the Tuning Knob spindle there is a hole into the Coil Turret/RF chassis box, and right above is V3, the Oscillator Tube. Now, remove the 12 slotted screws holding the coil turret cover in place; disconnect the Crystal Calibrator cable bundle; and the spring clip from the Calibrator output pin. Now remove the cover plate. Feed the screened lead up and over the tuning capacitor front frame plate.

The HT and LT wires enter the RF box from the back of the chassis. HT+ is the blue wire which supplies the RF, Mixer and Oscillator in sequence. This blue wire goes from compartment to compartment

FROM 770R CCT



via feed-through capacitors. V3, the Oscillator is at the front of the 770R. Unsolder R10, the 1K ohm from the last feed-through (C11) just inside the oscillator compartment and connect the newly-installed screened lead core to R10. I used a piece of Paxolin drilled with 2 x 1/32" holes 1/4" centre-to-centre as a steady for this connection. The lower hole over the feed-through stub and the upper hole for the screened lead to the R10 joint. The screen is grounded to the screwed lug which conveniently is right there.

The screened lead route fits easily between the front of the tuning capacitor frame and the cast aluminium structure which supports the RF/Coil box. The HT on V3 is 110v. Check the current through the new OB2 (15ma) and to the 6AK5.

In operation the difference is amazing; CW, SSB and even FM is just so much better and the stability is excellent. 1 x B7G base; 1 x OB2; 10" screened lead; 1 x 8200 ohm 4 watt wire-wound resistor, 7 solder joints.

THE FIXED TUNED BFO of the 770R Mk II is a disadvantage on a QRM-ridden band and a 1 to 3 mmf variable trimmer (like the 730 etc.) would be a great help. Turn the set upside-down on the bench and look at the bottom of the BFO unit. There are 4 connections in use and the 5th has been cut off. THIS CUT STUB IS THE INTERNAL SUPPORT FOR C86, C83 and the top of L19. It is exactly the connection point needed for a BFO variable trimmer with a shaft size (1/4") to take an Eddystone knob. The other side of this trimmer is grounded. I brought the wires out through one of the perforations in the cabinet and mounted the trimmer in a mini-box with a blade which slips under the 770. 18" of screened lead; 4 solder joints; 1 x 1-3 mmf miniature variable capacitor; 1 x Eddystone knob; 1 x Mini-box with home-made aluminium 3" x 3" blade.

All 3 modifications took 1 hour to plan, 11/2 hours to install, and the bits were in the junk box. The 770R Mk II is transformed in its performance and all of the amendments can be removed with a soldering iron in about 20 minutes. Try it - you'll like it. ●

"EDDYSTONE SPECIFIED"

*Continuing with our series of vintage circuits
in which the designer specified
the use of Eddystone Components*

December, 1954

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

733



THE LATEST VERSION OF OUR POPULAR TWO-R.F. RECEIVER, WHICH IS FULLY ADAPTABLE FOR MANY PURPOSES

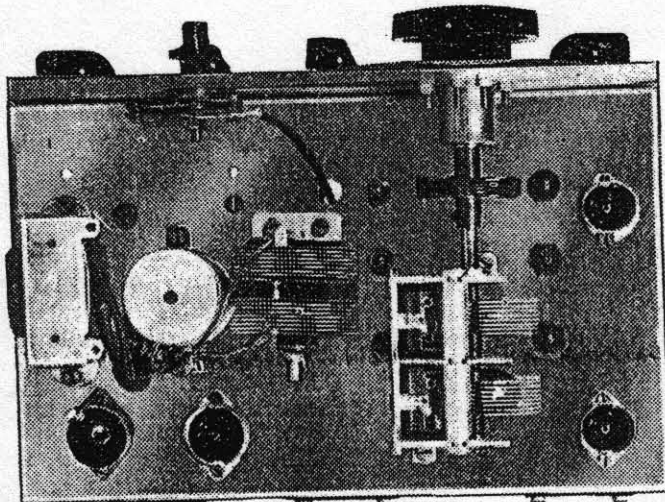
IN introducing the new Fury Four we have endeavoured not only to produce an up-to-date version of the original Fury Four circuit, but also to try to produce a design which may be adapted according to the particular needs of the majority of our readers. In January, 1933, we introduced a receiver circuit employing two H.F. stages, as a large number of readers had expressed a preference for the straight receiver rather than a superhet. Although the superhet is very popular many readers hesitate to build one in view of the probable difficulty of alignment. The question of expense is also often raised. It was, therefore, thought desirable to produce a straight type of receiver which went beyond the usual H.F.-detector arrangement, and again to use two H.F. stages. Normally it is extremely difficult to design a stable receiver with more than one H.F. stage, as elaborate screening becomes necessary, but in the new receiver this difficulty has to a large extent been overcome by using only one tuned circuit in the two stages.

When preparing this design we were also rather concerned to try to cater for a large variety of special needs. When we introduce a design we are usually flooded with inquiries asking how the receiver may be modified to take care of some particular circumstance—one group of readers want tone control, others do not. Some want to use the receiver for record reproduction mainly, whilst others have no interest in this branch of radio but prefer to spend all their spare time searching for long-distance stations. Again, one group of readers want short, medium and long-wave tuning, whilst others have no interest in the short waves. It will be appreciated, therefore, that it is very difficult to design a receiver which can fill all these individual requirements, and usually two or three different models have to be produced. In the new Fury Four we have tried to make the design as flexible as possible, without

introducing unnecessary complication, and we therefore present a circuit which may be built as a three- or four-valve receiver; with or without reaction; with or without tone control; for one band or three, and as a special set for the amateur "den" or as the family radiogram.

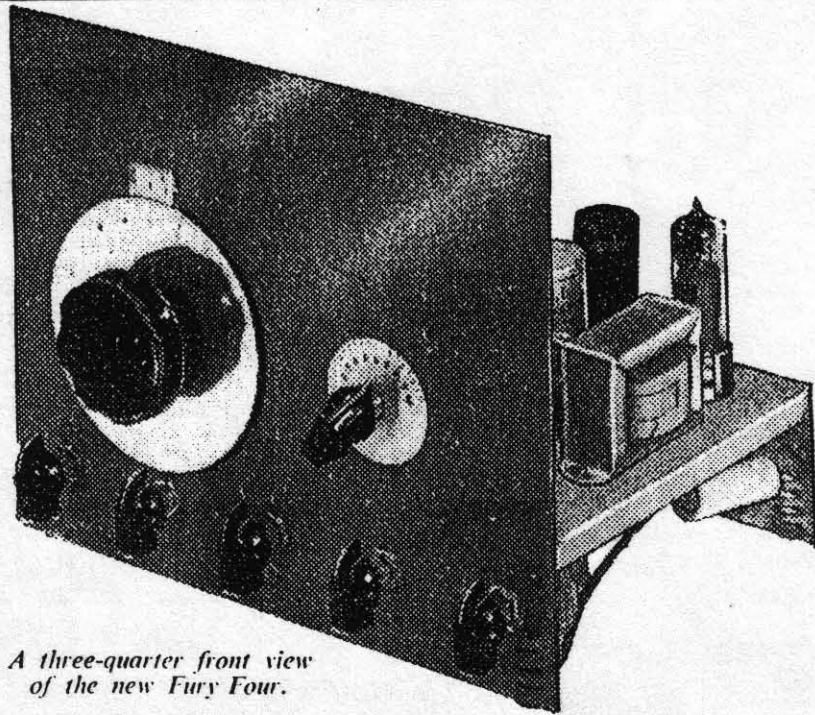
The Circuit

Examination of the circuit on page 734 will show that several parts have been indicated in broken lines. These are the optional parts of the circuit and may be included or left out as desired without in any way interfering with the performance of the receiver. Taking the receiver stage by stage we see that it starts off with an untuned H.F. stage using a modern B7G type pentode. Isolation is effected for the aerial and earth leads by fixed condensers which must be rated at 750 volts or more, as the mains side of the receiver employs A.C./D.C. technique which leaves the chassis "live" to one side of the mains. The potentiometer which is used in place of the first

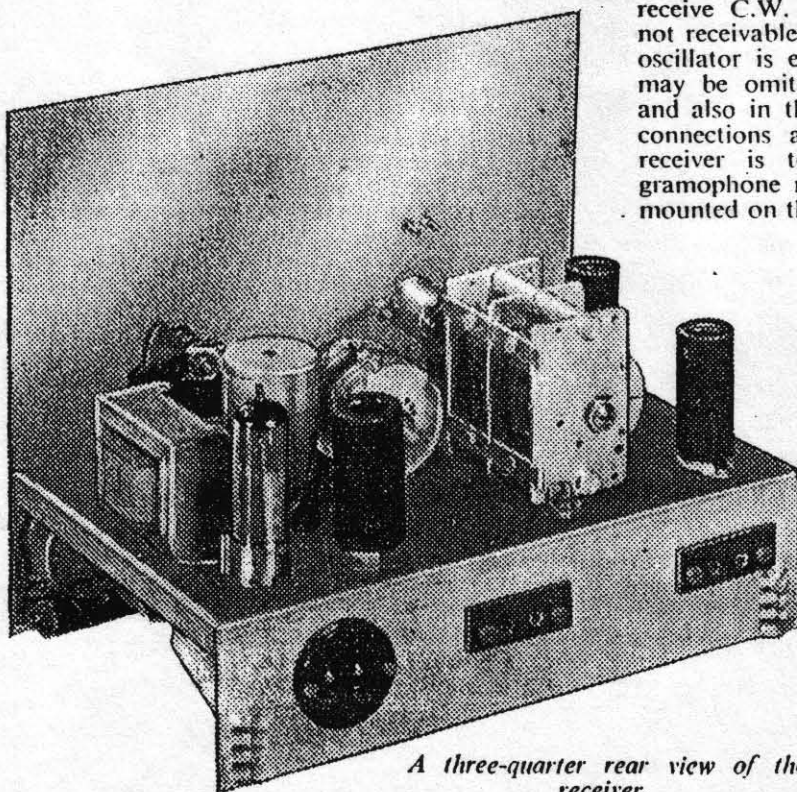


The top of chassis is clean and tidy with a minimum of wiring.

tuning circuit enables the first valve to operate with considerable gain at all frequencies, and thus makes up for an inefficient aerial, or, if a good aerial is used, gives an appreciable gain to all signals, rather than to one particular frequency, which would be the case if the aerial circuit were tuned. The signals are tapped off by means of the potentiometer, thus providing an effective H.F. or R.F. volume control, and in order to give full efficiency to this form of control it is linked back to the cathode circuit of the second R.F. stage. Thus, as the input is varied, so is the bias on the second valve, which is of the variable- μ type, and the combination acts very effectively in preventing overloading of the detector—a necessary feature if one desires good quality. Coupling between the first and second R.F. stages is effected by a normal H.F. transformer, and here we have employed separate coils rather than a commercial coil unit so that the necessary flexibility may be introduced. The coils are the Maxi-Q products by Denco, and they are easily fixed by means of their one-hole fixing nuts, and have an iron-core for matching. They are tuned by a 310 pF condenser instead of the usual 500 pF, and this improves performance on the short waves. It will be seen in the circuit diagram that a three-way switch is used for each coil (these being in the form of a six-position, three-way Bulgin component), and instead of using a



A three-quarter front view of the new Fury Four.



A three-quarter rear view of the receiver.

short-, medium- and long-wave coil at each position, the constructor may use two or three short-wave coils, may cut out the switch entirely and use just the medium-wave coil, or otherwise modify the coil combination. The Yellow range of coils is used between the two R.F. stages, and to feed the detector stage a Green coil is used as this has a reaction winding. Again, this winding can be ignored if desired, and it is included as it enables the user to receive C.W. transmissions—which are, of course, not receivable on a superhet unless a beat-frequency oscillator is employed. The entire reaction circuit may be omitted including the reaction condenser, and also in the detector stage will be seen pick-up connections also shown in broken lines. If the receiver is to be used for the reproduction of gramophone records the pick-up sockets should be mounted on the rear runner and connected between grid and earth. A change-over switch may be included if desired, or the entire previous part of the receiver may be omitted and the receiver built from the pick-up terminals onwards, as a record player.

It has been mentioned that the R.F. gain control is used to reduce the strength of signals fed to the detector stage so as to avoid overloading, and the output from this stage may even still be sufficient to overload the first A.F. stage. The output from the pick-up may also, with some records, be too great for the first A.F. stage, and therefore an audio or A.F. volume control has been included. The detector and first A.F. stage form the two triode sections of a double triode, and although an ECC81 has been specified for this, in some localities it may be possible to use an ECC82.

THE DEFENCE MEDAL AND THE RADIO SECURITY SERVICES

EUGer Maurice Cocker, a retired Navy man and member of many historical research societies, has sent us an article which first appeared in the Newsletter of 'The Orders and Medals Research Society'. He thought it would interest Members as so many VI's used Eddystone receivers. An edited version is given below:

"Just a Defence Medal . . . by C.J.Whitehouse. On being shown my collection, a friend seemed to be rather interested in the significance of certain ribbons. I explained to him that, for instance, the colours of the Defence Medal ribbon represented the blackout, the Blitz, and the green of the Motherland. He asked who was entitled and I mentioned that, in addition to full-time Service recipients, the medal was granted to Civil Defence, Home Guard, Auxiliary Fire Service, and many other voluntary organisations. 'I wonder if I would be entitled?' he mused. 'I was in the Radio Security Service.'

This meant nothing to me, so he explained. At the start of the War he had volunteered for the Services and had been rejected on medical grounds. His hobby was amateur radio and he had built his own shortwave set. A friend in his local club suggested he could put his skills to the country's use. He was checked out and signed the Official Secrets Act.

He was supplied with a communications receiver and allocated a frequency band. He logged as much Morse as he could and sent the copy off to a secret box number. He was told which messages needed special attention.

The local police were told that if neighbours were suspicious, or heard Morse signals they were to be reassured and kindly told to mind their own business. The same advice was given, not so kindly, to the pushy street warden, who couldn't understand why this young man refused to participate in Fire Watching duties!

Members of the Radio Security Service were called Voluntary Interceptors (VI's). His group met each month at the local Police Station, where they were briefed by an officer of the Royal Corps of Signals, given a pep talk, and taken for a meal at the local restaurant.

The messages they logged were frequently from enemy agents. My friend was told that one in particular, at Gibraltar, was not apprehended immediately. His messages were more useful to us than the enemy! But he was finally caught and shot.

Signals from U-boats on the surface, charging their batteries, were frequently heard. These were preceded by a three-letter call sign and sent very quickly, often screened by a stronger signal from elsewhere. My friend's ability to copy five letters in two seconds was often stretched to the limit!

At the end of the war all logs and circulars were ordered to be destroyed and the sets returned. The only tangible reward was a letter of thanks and a duplicated certificate.

"In the years when Civilisation was threatened with destruction. who served 1942-1945 gave generously of his time, powers and technical skill in essential service to his Country."

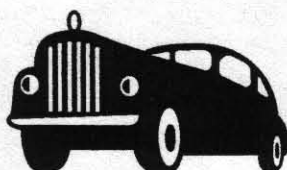
I found this account totally fascinating. While my friend was sitting alone in his radio room, with the buzz of high-speed Morse in his ears, helping to catch spies, I was cycling around as an A.R.P. messenger, dressed in navy blue battledress. For this I was awarded a Defence Medal. It seemed grossly unfair that my friend wasn't.

I wrote to the Ministry of Defence, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Imperial War Museum and the National Army Museum. None of these, they said, had ever heard of the Radio Security Service. I wrote to the Home Office, who kindly sent me a list of organisations which qualified for the Defence Medal. The R.S.S. was not among them.

Finally I persuaded my friend to write to the Home Office, giving full details of his service, and including copies of his certificate and letter of thanks.

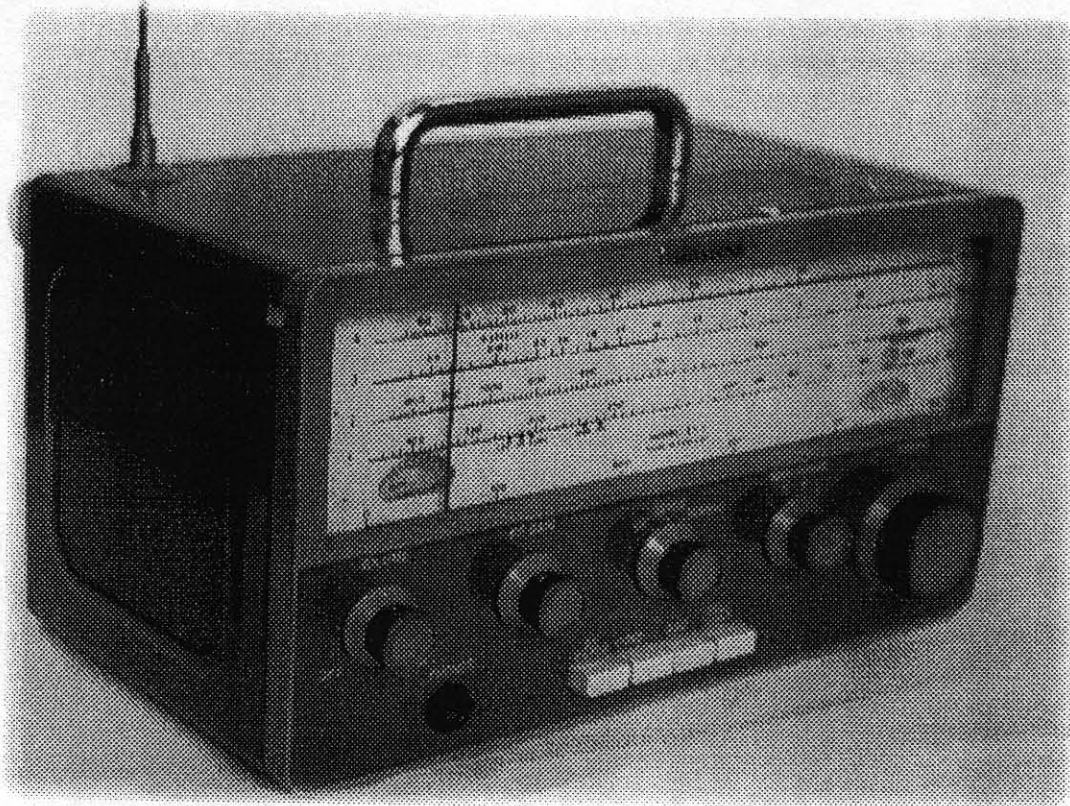
After several weeks he wrote to say that his Defence Medal had arrived. I felt great satisfaction at this admittedly small success . . . "

So if YOU know any ex-VI's, get them to write to the Home Office!



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MODEL

THE EDDYSTONE EY11 'YACHTSMAN'



Before we go into any details of the Eddystone EY11 'Yachtsman', I think it would be a good idea to go back in history to seek the origins of simple seafaring radio-positioning equipment.

Like so many radio-related techniques we have to go back to World War II in order to find these. The plethora of radio-positioning systems of the period is rather overpowering, all known by confusing code-names.

'Knickebein' was the Luftwaffe's first blind bombing system, actually a variation of the well-known pre-war Lorenz Beam Approach (fitted at Croydon in 1935!). Then there was BABS; Gee; Rebecca; the list seems endless. However, back to the matter in hand . . .

Late in 1943 British Air Intelligence latched on to the fact that the Germans were setting up a long-wave transmitter in north-west Spain.

This would send a fan of beams into the Atlantic across the Bay of Biscay. Together with a similar station located in north-west France a cross-pattern of beams would be created whereby a U-boat or aircraft could determine its position. It was a variation of a patent taken out in France in the 1920's and was code-named 'Sonne' ('sun') by the Germans.

As Spain was a neutral country this was potentially embarrassing to the Allies. Then it occurred to us that by this time we were operating more anti-sub patrols than the Germans over the Bay of Biscay!

We could make more use of it than Hitler's mob. It was very simple to operate, unlike our slightly related VHF Gee system, which required an accurately calibrated oscilloscope.

All that was needed for 'Sonne' was a long-wave receiver, a calibrated chart and a stopwatch. The charts were soon 'acquired', and the RAF and Royal Navy hitched a ride on the system for the rest of the War. It was code-named 'Consol' by the British (Latin for 'with-the-sun').

It was so simple to use that it was continued on a world-wide basis after the war. New stations were still being added in the late 1970's. Accuracy was around 1 or 2 degrees at 1000 miles from the transmitters (or within about ½ mile at 100 miles). It was the answer to the amateur sailor's prayer, which is where we get back to the Eddystone EY11 'Yachtsman'.

During the 'sixties the transistor had become well and truly established in the Company's range, particularly in the successful EC10 compact self-contained general coverage set. It provided an ideal starting point for the development of the 'Yachtsman'.

Curiously, though, the case is an inch shorter than that of the EC10. The reason for this is unclear because Eddystone policy was always to 'mix & match' as much as possible. The IF strip appears to be the same printed board as the EC10 but the lower (RF tuner unit) panel is hand constructed on double-size vero-board. (0.2" strips instead of 0.1").

The serial number is DEV 0001, which is clear enough but doesn't give us the date. On the photograph the controls go like this:-
big knob at the right is TUNING;
the jack at the left is PHONES.
The smaller knobs are:
VOLUME; R.F. GAIN;

a switch labelled DF/SENSE/NORM; and, finally, WAVECHANGE. The frequency coverage is 150-400kc/s, 480-1250kc/s, 1.1-2.5mc/s and 2.5-6.2mc/s in four bands. (465kc/s IF?)

The push-button strip is labelled AF FILTER - CONSOL - AGC - DIAL. Just what the CONSOL switch actually did isn't too obvious. (I've never used 'Consol', being a 'Lorenz' man myself . . .) As well as the fitted telescopic aerial the set has the usual Eddystone balanced-unbalanced sockets, and a Belling-Lee co-ax connector labelled DF.

Only one model of the EY11 was ever built. It was another 'Eddystone Experimental' and must rank with the 'Radiosonde Orphan', covered in Newsletter No 56. They have both now gone to join the collection in Chelmsford, where they will be displayed in the new Marconi Museum when it is built.

Why should such a neat little radio fail to reach the production stage? My own theory goes like this. The set was probably developed early or just before the Marconi era (i.e. mid-1960's). Previous to this there was a tendency at Stratton to 'play things by ear'. By this I mean that often very little market or costing research was carried out before the enthusiasm of the production team got cracking with a project. But this was one area where Marconi felt that intervention was necessary! I suspect they costed it out; checked the market, and realised that it would be quite easy for the punter to acquire 'Consol' facilities for about a quarter the price of an Eddystone EY11. A sad little theory, but it's the best I can do. *Graeme.*



'IN PRAISE OF EDDYSTONE'

More letters of appreciation from Stratton's Archives

FROM MR F.HILL, MANCHESTER, SEPT 1953: "In 1949 I was in Tanganyika and had an Eddystone 659B. This gave wonderful service, and my rare visitors were most impressed with the set."

FROM MR T.W.TANDY, OFFICERS MESS, R.A.F. ABU SUEIR, M.E.A.F.10.
APRIL 1953: "My Eddystone 640 is working excellently in all respects."

FROM MR H.J.SADDLER, M.V."BRITISH BOMBARDIER" (AT SEA), 1951: "For nearly two years I have been the proud owner of one of your Model 670 Marine Receivers, and it has given sterling service all over the world bringing me hours of listening pleasure."

FROM MR D.C.HILTON, SALISBURY, SOUTHERN RHODESIA, NOVEMBER 1952: "You might like to know that I used a '358' under the callsign VQ2DH and in 18 months, from Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia, confirmed 168 QSO's. I have used the '504' commercially and now have a '640' - all very excellent."

FROM MR A.G.KEITH, MONT ALBERT, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1954: "I have an Eddystone 740 Communications Receiver, purchased three years ago, which has done an excellent job on short wave reception."

FROM MR E.G.BOWEN, SALISBURY, SOUTHERN RHODESIA, 1955: "I have recently had the good fortune to come into ownership of an Eddystone 'All World Four' which my father bought in 1935, and so I too join the ranks of a proud owner of one of your sets. The performance of this set is amazing even in comparison with a number of modern sets. The clearness of reception on short waves is quite remarkable. I have picked up stations on all five continents, and quite often listen in to Australia and New York."

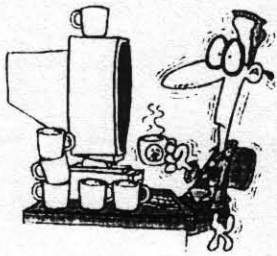
FROM MR E.W.HIBBERD, THE COLONIAL SUGAR REFINING CO. LTD., NAUSORI, FIJI ISLANDS, 1955: "I am happy to say that the performance of the receiver as a whole is still A.1. after almost three years of service. I think it has stood up to the tropical climate remarkably well considering that we have a high humidity to contend with."

FROM MR HYLTON E. JARRETT, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA, OCTOBER 1955: "For years I have used Eddystone receivers on my Plantations. I can say that for the price they are the best receivers in the tropics, and we get all makes from all over the world. My All World Six is 5 years old, averaging 5 hours daily and has the original vibrator, which is the most silent I have ever seen."

FROM MR HWANG YUN YU, S.S."RANHEIM", COLOMBO, CEYLON, NOVEMBER 1955: "I beg to say that I am happy having an "Eddystone 659/670" marine receiver which I bought years ago. It has always enjoyed me with excellent reception, also makes me proud for it is the only one best receiver on board my ship."

FROM MR A.A.ANGUS, WORTHING SUSSEX, NOVEMBER 1955: "The set has given perfect performance in spite of the major mishap it sustained in 1947 when it fell out of the luggage net and dropped 40 feet into the ship's hold when taking it out to India, which accounts for the dent in the frame."

YOU'LL NEVER SEE BETTER!



POO'S PONDERINGS

'Stray thoughts from an absent mind!'
by Simon Robinson G8POO

As we gracefully slide into a new millennium and our heads have cleared after the festive 'brew' there is a certain 'emptiness' as the day draws to a close. What is there to do on these cold winter evenings now the flow of alcohol then turkey breast, sandwiches, curry and soup has stopped? Why not blow the dust off your soldering iron and build one of the excellent EF50 or 'Eddystone Shortwave Component' based receivers featured last year in the EUG Newsletter?

Chassis, Valve HT Transformers, Slow Motion Dials and most components are available from the likes of Maplin Electronics. Valves can be had from a number of suppliers including Centre Electronics, Jim Fish (Wilson Valves) and Langrex Supplies. The EUG will be at the NEC this year on Sunday 30th April and we'll be holding a competition for the best homebrew set of the above type.

There will be a prize (value not exceeding £10,000) for the best example. Your entry must obviously *work*, it should be *safe and straightforward to operate*. A receiver that looks like a factory produced replica will not necessarily win! An overall assessment will be made and the receivers will be on view during the show. *Please note that this "Constructors Competition" is open to EUG members only.*

Murphy's Law

During the festive season a Scottish member rang me and asked if I would swap my 730/4 as advertised for another set. I agreed and he came to see with 'the other set' (I'm keeping quiet 'cause it wasn't an Eddystone!). The 730/4 had been refurbished and subsequently used for some time and I thought no more of it. I did in fact listen to 80m and 40m whilst waiting for the gentleman to arrive. We had coffee and chatted for some time. You can imagine my despair when I took him to see the set when I noticed a lack of audio accompanied by a nasty smell; off it went. All that appeared to be wrong (luckily) was the anode resistor (R77) for V11 (IF output) and the main culprit, it's decoupling capacitor (C120). The fault was fixed and the deal done. Hopefully all is still O.K. with the 730/4 in it's new home.

EUG Official Web Site

I have asked several times for contributions from members for the Web Site and had a very poor reply. The site is now ready for 'publishing' so unless your quick, you've had it. Members Adverts will be featured on the site and will be posted TWO WEEKS after the magazine is sent out. This means members have first crack! **IF YOU WANT YOUR ADVERT ON THE INTERNET YOU MUST TELL US.** As usual 'For Sale' adverts will be accepted from non-members and treated as above. ●

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING EDDYSTONES

During the 1980's the Model 1650 was the company's top-of-the-range LF/HF receiver. Former Managing Director, Chris Pettitt, G0EYO, tells us the most amazing tale of intrigue and deceit that you've ever heard! Read on . . .

A few years after I became Managing Director in 1984, the company was the subject of a very clever scam to defraud it of a number of 1650 LF/HF Receivers. I'm telling this off the top of my head (and my memory's nothing like that of my predecessor, Bill Cooke, GW0ION,) but I think I've got the details about right, so here goes.

The whole affair started with what seemed to be a genuine enquiry for nine HF receivers from a U.S. Department of Defence Purchasing Agency in Germany. They were wanted by an Agency of the Department of Defence called JUUSMAG. Mervyn Dyke was the sales manager responsible for 1650's and he quickly built up a relationship with the purchaser, who always contacted us by fax. He was called Col. Jones and eventually Mervyn received a fax order from Germany with instructions to deliver the sets to an airport warehouse near Heathrow.

Now being part of Marconi gave Eddystone some commercial advantages. First of all we were obliged by company rules to ensure security of payment. So when a new customer came along we tried to get trade references or a letter of credit. Dealing with the Department of Defence usually rules out letters of credit, so open-account trade terms would not be unusual. After all, the

U.S. Government doesn't usually default on its payments.

Something about the order made me a little suspicious however. It seemed too secretive; Col. Jones was very hard to get hold of and always rang us. I had his visiting card and noticed that it carried a U.S. telephone number. I rang this myself and the girl at the other end said she would get the Colonel to ring back, which he did. (Funnily enough his telex call-back was CONUS!! – I should have definitely smelt a rat then.) He confirmed that he wanted the sets in a hurry for a job he could not talk about.

Marconi had an office in Washington with good contacts with the U.S. Government, so I rang them to get some background on JUUSMAG and the Colonel. Back came the reply that this was a clandestine organisation that purchased equipment for the U.S. for use in those countries that they didn't want to talk about. Well okay, they were certainly secretive but everything seemed to fit. I agreed to let the order go, confident that we were delivering to a recognised air freighting company.

Unbeknown to me it later transpired that the Colonel and his sergeant rang the factory and arranged to come and pick up the receivers themselves, citing some operational reason why we didn't need to ship them to the air freight company at Heathrow. The sets were picked up and

the invoices sent to the payments branch in Germany as the paperwork stipulated.

A couple of weeks later, queries from the office in Germany made us realise that we had a problem on our hands! There was no official order for receivers and the faxes had been sent to us from a newsagent's in the South of England. I actually heard of this on a day off when I was being interviewed for another job.

Once I was convinced that we'd been conned I got the office to contact Marconi, tell them what had happened, and wait for the sky to fall in! Marconi, to their credit, were quite professional about it. They sent their Commercial Director to interview us and concluded that we'd not been negligent, but had perhaps looked for the order to be okay rather than looking for evidence that it was a con. The police were called and we all had to give statements. The phone number for the Colonel turned out to be an accommodation address he had rented.

A few days after the realisation that we'd been conned I decided to find out what could have happened to the sets. I rang a friend who knew everyone in the second-hand electronics business and within 24 hours he called me to say that M+B Radio had bought some, paying by cheque made out to "G. Fund". (Apparently the 'Colonel' had taken them straight from us to Leeds and persuaded M+B that they were being disposed of as U.S. Government surplus and that the payment should be made to the U.S. General Fund.) Other sets turned up in Essex at a well-known second-hand ham radio trader, who would always deny being involved.

We passed all this information on to the police and eventually 'Col. Jones' and his side-kick were traced and arrested. The sets had been sold and if anyone has a 1650 without a serial number plate on the rear panel then this is almost certainly one

of the stolen radios. Over the coming months we were to be asked several times for information on these sets from people who had bought them in good faith. Some seemed very upset when we declined to offer any assistance even though we informed them of their pedigree. We were unable to get them back as they had been bought in good faith. All we could do was to say that they couldn't dispose of them in case we went to court for their retrieval.

Whilst waiting for the trial, and during it, a lot was learned about 'Col. Jones'. It turned out he had worked for a North London ham radio dealer, now out of business, who had built up quite a business selling radios of one sort or another to West African countries. 'Col. Jones' had defrauded them by getting a large sum paid into an account he had set up in the same name as the company he worked for. I also heard from computer companies that he had similarly defrauded them.

Eventually 'Col. Jones' was found guilty but instead of a prison sentence he was deported, not back to the U.S.A. where he also had a record as a con man, but to the country he had arrived from when he came to Britain: - the U.S.S.R. , of all places; and this was before the days of Perestroika. I never heard any more of him after that, but I believe the K.G.B. were very keen to talk to him!

The whole episode cost us £35,000 and taught me a very valuable lesson. Trust your gut instinct and check the details. Look for things that could be wrong, not things that could be right. I was so suspicious that I remember almost accusing a buyer at Rolls Royce in Coventry of being a con-man. I didn't know that they made gas turbines in that city!

*Chris Pettitt, GOEYO, Managing Director,
Eddystone Radio, 1984-98.*

RADIO RAMBLINGS

Gottings from my Notebook



By

Graeme Wormald

G3GGL

As I write these words at the end of January I have just finished my third course of antibiotics since early December. The New Year started with my wishing everybody a Merry Christmas, I was so disorientated!

But what is more to the point, I was stricken by the fever the day before the beautiful Technicolor December Newsletter was ready at the printer's. I was totally non compus mentis when the call came and we have to thank our friend Jesse (who, in spite of the spelling, is female; she was named after an uncle). A good family friend, she whizzed off to the printer's at lunchtime, brought them home, packed the overseas letters, took them to the post office, weighed them, posted them, bought the stamps for 260 inland postings and collected 3 empty mailbags. (Until the weight is known you can't buy the stamps.)

Then she filled the envelopes, collected her 'little helpers', Sarah and Tom from school, and together they stuck on 520 stamps. At 9.30 next morning 3 sacks were delivered to the post office, all less than 24 hours after printing! Thank you, Jesse and helpers. Without your efforts Members would have been waiting for their favourite read until the New Year.

As you may imagine, my response to mail has been a little erratic during this period; one or two of you may still be waiting for replies. My apologies if so. Fortunately the Christmas Newsletter was oversubscribed with features, 'news', and articles, so we were off to a flying start for this one.

A letter has just arrived from a former AEUGer living in France which has

important information for all EC10 owners. Like the rest of you I have often puzzled about the poor stability characteristics of these sets, especially in view of the rave notices given to them in the 'sixties. We all change the zenner diode and clip the screen legs (in case of the dreaded 'whiskers'), but rarely with perfect results. I think the information is sufficiently important to quote you all of John's letter:

“I dropped out of the EUG about 3 years ago and at that time I had numerous exchanges of information regarding a problem with the EC10 (*I well remember it – Graeme*). I don't know whether the Group is in existence, still, or not, but having found an answer to my problem I thought I would like to pass on my findings as other people may have the same or similar problems.

The main fault was the receiver drifted very badly – but only on one band – band 3. (*This after all other measures had been taken – Graeme*). It may sound a simple and obvious solution, but it was the OC171 transistor causing the trouble. I changed this particular item (*the local oscillator*) with many other types but nothing worked until I put in a BSX29. It is well-known that the OC171 is very poor in performance when it ages and so I replaced most of these (cutting off the earth legs on the 171 didn't help) with BSX29. Now realigned, the EC10 is really excellent in performance. One small point is that a number of birdies exist around 10 mHZ but this may be normal with the 2x. relative to the IF of 465 kHz and single conversion. I hope this information may be useful.

Vy 73

John.....”

OUR CHRISTMAS RESCUE TEAM

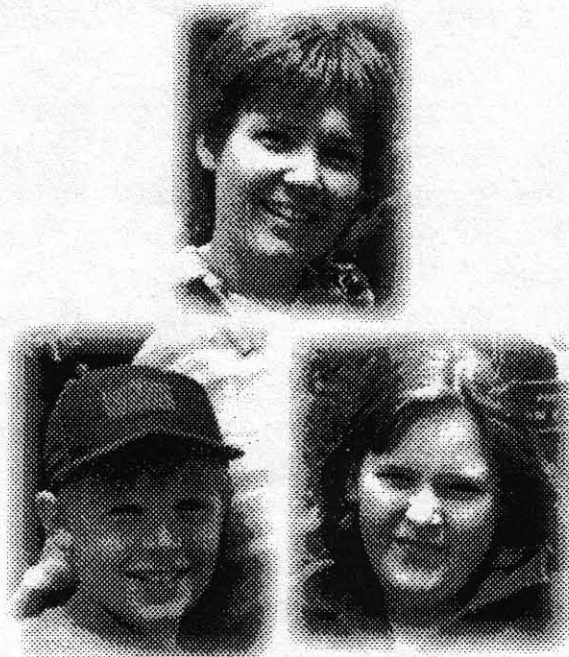
So there you have it, chaps. Who's going to be the first to confirm these findings? As a confirmed child of the valve era, I'm not qualified to comment. But I can say that this device (BSX29) isn't in the Maplin catalogue; in fact I can't find ANY HF silicon PNP transistors in the Maplin catalogue. Perhaps our latter-day technical members can come up with some answers. Please!

This month's 'Eddystone Specified' feature dates from 1954 and is a resurrection of an even earlier model; the 'Fury Four' of 1933. Undoubtedly a novel circuit but beware! The mains goes direct to the chassis, even though it isn't a true AC/DC design.

I see that Simon, G8POO, in his 'Poo's Ponderings' column, is floating a constructional contest to present at the National Vintage Communications Fair at the NEC this year (which takes place on Sunday 30th April). I think we could twist Simon's arm to accept anything which has appeared as an Eddystone constructional project over the years. But I think his sights may be a little high regarding the possible prize - perhaps a year's free subscription to EUG might be in order!

Seriously though, home-brewed thermionics is almost a lost art. Much the same as photography (I mean the developing and enlarging, not the clicking) and model-making (I don't mean kit-building, I mean starting from scratch). Yet the components, although not 'locally' available, are still around and relatively much cheaper than in the heyday of homebrew between the wars.

Whilst tidying my desk, (a permanent task) I've just uncovered a QSL card from EUGer John, G3VDL. This shows his entirely thermionic station using an Eddystone 888A Rx and two homebrew Tx's. One with a VFO driving 2x807's and the other a single 6L6M xtal osc (a close relative of the 1939 Eddystone RAF-CWR Tx). As John says, his main interest is CW DX, and when he gave me the card (which must be 2 or 3 years ago now) he'd worked



Jesse with helpers Tom and Sarah, who got the EUG Christmas Newsletter on the road. They are as cosmopolitan as our members - Jesse & Tom were both born in Washington State, whilst Sarah is a Worcestershire girl; the first member of the family born in England for over two centuries!

266 Countries with this gear! (I didn't know there were that many.) A little note on the card says 'No Black Boxes at G3VDL!' John must be among the most contented of men.

Many of you will know that our Patron, Chris, G0EYO, is also the organiser of the Wythall Radio Club Rally (South Birmingham) which takes place this year on 12th March. Chris has kindly offered EUG a stand so I shall be pleased to exchange gossip with any members who appear. Just look for the Lighthouse! Entry to the rally is £1.50 with a unique free park and ride service to ease the strain.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a full-page press release of a new Eddystone Web Site which will interest members with suitable facilities. It is managed by Alan Clayton, G7HZZ, who welcomes comment. ●

The Early History Of Eddystone

In our previous two episodes we described how a small engineering company of the mid 19th Century had thrived and expanded. The new name of 'Stratton' had entered the group and business was booming after the First World War. We now discover how the even newer name of 'Eddystone' came upon the scene. . .

The entry of Stratton's into the wireless business shows how the oddest things can control a destiny. After World War I the fashion in women's clothes and hairstyles underwent revolutionary changes. The 'sixties would pale by comparison. Skirts went from ankle to thigh and long hair virtually vanished.

Plant with a capacity of six tons of hairpins a week juddered to a standstill as trade plummeted. Failure stared the Company in the face!. What should replace those lost sales? George Stratton Laughton, the teenage son of G.A.L., whose hobby was radio, suggested to his father: 'Why not make radio components at the works?' Adapting the words of an old-time song 'We'd got the plant, we'd got the men and we'd got the money too,' so as a result of a change in women's fashions Stratton's started in the radio business in 1923. They were one of the first firms associated with the original British Broadcasting Company.

The trade name EDDYSTONE was chosen because being that of the world famous lighthouse off Plymouth, it was a name already well-known, it signified endurance and reliability and provided a mark which could be shown pictorially with a device easily remembered. It was decided upon, during a short journey home after work, by G.A. and G. Stratton Laughton.

A start was made with component parts for home builders, and then followed the marketing of a complete radio receiver, the 'Eddystone Twin'. As the name would indicate the set had two valves and, rather curiously, it had an engraved glass front panel. It incorporated a battery box within the oak cabinet, but the speaker was external. Early in 1926 it was listed in the 'Wireless World Buyers' Guide' at a price of 15 Guineas (£15; 15 shillings or £15.75 in current style). This price was quoted for the 'complete' set but may only have meant complete with valves; batteries and speaker were usually extra. This rather delicate front panel may be the reason for the set's scarcity; the glass wasn't very thick and the only one known in captivity needed a repair job on the glass.

It was a medium-wave only model (as were most early sets) but soon became available in a two-band version. This was closely followed by the 'Scientific Four' in 1927. This was a large, two-band, four-valve table model. It was two feet wide and incorporated plug-in coils, but the batteries and speaker were external, in the fashion of the period. The front panel, however, was now black ebonite, a much safer material than glass!



FIRST EDDYSTONE SHORT WAVE RECEIVER

It was in 1927 that Gerald Marcuse, G2NM, a very active and well-connected Amateur, persuaded the Postmaster General to authorise him "to transmit speech and music for a period of six months from September 1, 1927, by means of wireless telephony with power for transmission not exceeding 1 kW and waves of 23 and 33 metres."

Marcuse inaugurated his "experiments to the British Empire" by transmitting a concert to Australia on Sept 11th, 1927. Among the well-known personalities included in the concert was no less than Captain Ian Fraser, M.P., G5SU, at that time the High Commissioner of Australia. The experiment was hailed as a great achievement from the many parts of the Empire in which it was received. Young George Stratton Laughton's imagination was fired: in spite of the potential audience of millions of non-technical expats nobody was offering a ready-made short-wave set. Stratton's would fill the gap with a new Eddystone Short-Wave receiver. Within three years the domestic broadcast market had been abandoned and production was concentrated on sets for overseas users. These included sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa and rubber planters, mining engineers, public works constructors and overseas administrators. By this time the sets were fully tropicalised in solid die-cast aluminium. Eddystone Short Wave Radio had taken off!

Next month read about the expansion of the 'thirties and the total destruction of Stratton in the Wartime 'Blitz' of 1940, followed by the move to the 'Bath Tub'.

To the *Antarctic* with an **Eddystone S.870**

In the late 'fifties and early 'sixties young Peter Chisholm went to work in the Antarctic. Some men would have taken their dogs; some would have taken their mistresses, but Peter took his faithful Stratton. The latest product from the Bath Tub was a ten-inch long, power-packed music-box; the Eddystone S.870 cabin model. Now an enthusiastic EUGer, Peter tells us about it.

'During 1955-62 I was on the Island of South Georgia and also along the ice-shelf of mainland Antarctica, including the Weddell Sea. Much Medium Wave DX was to be heard during the long hours of darkness, although sometimes disrupted by violent magnetic storms emanating from the South Pole.

'With the Eddystone S.870 cabin radio and around 20 metres of wire run up the samson post and the earth securely bolted to the bulkhead – what a ground-plane! – I well remember listening to radio Luxembourg on 208 metres medium wave. "Top Twenty" was never to be missed if at all possible on a Sunday night (after all, you're only a teenager once!).

'Daytime listening was predominantly "Lorenzo Marques" and "Radio Brazzaville" on 25 metres for more pops of the day, but the night-time Dxing on medium wave was always much more interesting. WOWO from Fort Wayne, Indiana, on 1190kc/s, often gave "armchair" copy most nights, depending on our position and longitude, of course.

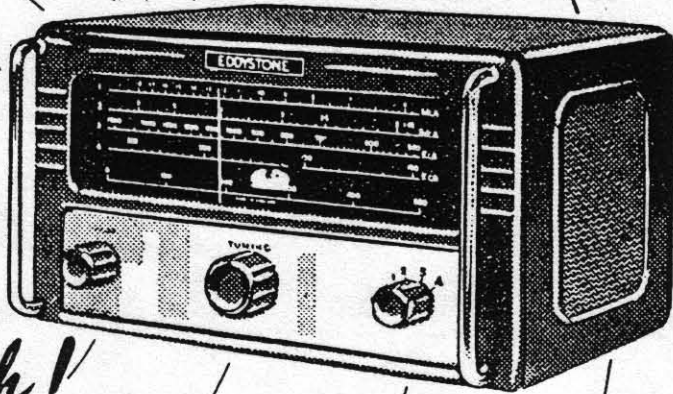
'The main frequency for B.B.C. listening was the relay station from the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station on 536 kc/s medium wave and 3.958mc/s. I can still recollect those specific frequencies since one was so used to them. Although I've since monitored them in the U.K. from time to time, I've had no success. Has anyone else heard either frequencies from the Falkland Islands ?

'If conditions on L.F. were poor, one could always hear the B.B.C. direct from London on 12.095mc/s. The S.870 was indeed a fabulous Rx, although truly a cabin set of no great complexity. Since 1956 I personally have owned many, many sets of varying pedigree but the simple 870 provided such great service whilst in Antarctica for 21 months at a time that it always qualified for its place in the kitbag.

'So therefore this goes to prove that we don't require present-day digital technology, nor indeed many hundreds in Sterling, to enjoy worldwide reception. Long Live the good name and quality of Eddystone! ●



Keep in touch!



**WHEREVER YOU MAY BE - WITH THE
EDDYSTONE '870'
RECEIVER**

You can enjoy news and entertainment from the World—wherever you may live—
with this compact Eddystone receiver. It is a fine example of first-class
workmanship, traditional with the name Eddystone.

- ★ Four wavebands giving a wide coverage.
- ★ Good performance and selectivity.
- ★ Vernier logging device.
- ★ Ample volume.
- ★ International valves.
- ★ Operates on A.C. or D.C. mains.
- ★ Dual voltage ranges 110/120, 200/250.
- ★ Two-tone metal cabinet.
- ★ Built-in mains filter.
- ★ Lightweight, easy to install.
- ★ Suitable for any climate.
- ★ Robust construction.
- ★ First-class workmanship.

Please contact your local Eddystone supplier or the manufacturers.



STRATTON & CO. LTD., BIRMINGHAM, 31

International Daily Sketch.
9th December, 1959

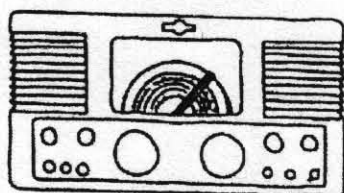
**This is it –
Peter Chisholm's little wonder
of the Antarctic!
(from the Stratton scrapbook)**

EDDYSTONE RADIOS – NEW WEB PAGE FOR ENTHUSIASTS

Crystal Sets – The Rise of Shortwave – BBC Empire Service – Eddystones at War – The Cold War
Models Directory – Serial Numbers – Case Types – Spares & Service – Hints and Tips

A new Web Site dedicated to vintage Eddystone Radios now “on-line”

www.qsl.net/eddystone



This new independent site features a short illustrated history of Eddystone Radio Ltd from the origins of the company in Brimingham in 1898 to the end of the valve era in 1973. Eddystone's development - and many of its radios - are described within their historical context, from crystal sets to “The Cold War”, from the decline of the hair-pin to the rise of the transistor.

For vintage radio collectors there is a Directory of Models which lists almost all of the major radios and many other items of equipment produced under the Eddystone brand since 1923. Additional pages cover “Hints and Tips” plus “Spares & Service”, and include one dedicated to the Eddystone User Group.

This colourful and comprehensive site totals 35 individual pages and even includes a short history of the Eddystone Lighthouse itself.

Aimed at vintage wireless enthusiasts, shortwave listeners and radio hams, this site gives a wealth of information which has been gathered from many sources over several years.

Author, Alan Clayton (G7HZZ) says:

“I decided to do something useful with 10 years-worth of magazines, lists and cuttings, by creating a bold and interesting web site which raises the awareness of Eddystone receivers, particularly vintage ones. I hope it will have a wide appeal, and that visitors will enjoy it and help make it bigger and better.”

The site is hosted by Al Waller's QSL.NET at www.qsl.net/eddystone and is operated independently of the Eddystone Company.

Enthusiasts can contact: Alan Clayton G7HZZ at: eddystone@qsl.net

Members please note that this is NOT the EUG website, It is operated by an independent source and this page is given for information only. Feedback should not be routed to EUG but direct to the Author as shown above.

THE QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE

{ 20TH CENTURY VERSION }

As is often the case this began with one single printed phrase from a book which I was reading. The phrase seemed to imprint itself in my mind at the time and has been there ever since, a continuously recurring reminder of an unsolved mystery.

Being a sucker for anything to do with radio, especially when pertaining to the Golden Years of the thermionic valve era, books on any related subjects fascinate me. Anything by or about R.V.Jones, books such as Spycatcher, which deal with electronic espionage or counter-espionage. Anything like this will keep me quiet for hours.

When Spycatcher first became available here in the UK I read it from cover to cover. The period which it described cannot be counted as a happy one for the British MI5 and MI6 people, so much discovered too late, so many questions not yet and never to be answered.

Since reading the aforesaid book I have, in effect, been involved in my own personal Search for the Golden Fleece.

At one point Peter Wright elaborates upon the manner in which it became possible for them to listen to, and eventually decode signals being encrypted in a foreign embassy solely by filtering out and amplifying the signal pulses leaking back through the mains supply cables. On another occasion he deals with the even more esoteric in which listeners could deduce the frequency to which foreign agents had their receiver tuned to pick up broadcasts from Moscow. They could thus tune the British receivers at GCHQ to those frequencies and copy the signals for decrypting.

Note that this meant listening out for any external radiations from the receiver being used by the agent, spurious emanations which came from one of the oscillators in the receiver. As Wright says, all modern comms receivers employ the superhet system needing one or more local oscillators which operate a fixed (IF) frequency above or below the signal frequency to which the set is tuned. Naturally these local oscillators operate at a very low power level and the radiated signal is minimal.

From my own experience I know that some of the older superhets DID radiate a local signal which was certainly strong enough to be picked up on other nearby, and sometimes not-so-near, receivers. One well-known culprit was the 1930-40s HRO; try using one of these anywhere near another receiver and note the squeaks and squalling produce as the HRO is tuned. Not just the local oscillator fundamental but also its harmonics are strong enough to annoy. Onversley some Eddystone models (i.e. for GCHQ) were produced which were specially designed to reduce the external radiation from local oscillators to a very low level, e.g. the Eddystone 730/5, the 770R/8, the 880/4, the 958/2, the 31A, the 40A. In these models triple screening and multiple decoupling was used.

Now Peter Wright makes a very specific comment. He states that the British counter espionage people who listened for these radiated signals from foreign embassies were using STRAIGHT receivers and not superhets. This was in the post WW II era, the 50s and 60s.

So what am I rambling on about here? My quest is for information on just which model(s) of straight receiver were used for this kind of operation? Extreme sensitivity would have been necessary together with accurate calibration, yet reaction or regeneration could not have been incorporated, rather limits the models in existence in those days. Who made them? What model? Why have none turned up since?

Over the ensuing years many kinds of radio equipment for such purposes have turned up, why not these? A fair number must have existed since such operations were launched against foreign embassies around the world, where are they? Has anybody any knowledge of these STRAIGHT receivers of the 50s and 60s? Can you help my quest?

TED

NEWSLETTER #59 - MEMBERS' FREE ADVERTS.

WANTED: Eddystone 680X in nice condx & working order. Call Stuart 01434 681469.

FOR SALE: Eddystone 358 with complete coil pack, recond 2yrs ago, £175, also Mimco 2273A badged Eddystone due to no Mimco badge. £75. Buyers to inspect and collect: J. Buckley, The Viking, Main St., Helperthorpe, Malton, North Riding of Yorkshire. Tel: 01944 738476.

FREE TO MEMBERS: a small supply of "Antique Electronic Supply" catalogue available; send £1 taped on a card for post & packing. First come etc. Call Roger 01744 731452.

FOR SALE: Eddystone 770U, refurbished, repainted, new appearance, £80. (next) EXCHANGE: 640-type small knobs for 358-type small knobs (cat no. 2416P) or will buy qty three. WANTED 640 finger-plate Ring Pete, GW6AYM, QTHR, 01792 232782.

FOR SALE: eddystone EC10 MkII and 770R/1. Both in nice condx and working order. £85 each o.n.o. Call Keith on 01793 706594.

WANTED: Eddystone 770S - prefer a nice one but anything considered. Also help with Eddystone Modulation Monitor i.e. instructions and details of telescopic (?) aerial used. Please call Simon on 01434 633913.

FOR SALE: 730/4, VGC + trimming tool and manual. £125 ono. Please tel Michael Willison on 01297 443697 (Lyme Regis).

WANTED: Dial lamp holder for 830/7. Mains tranny for 640 (even a duff one would do). Wanted- good 670A, would exchange for 880/2 (working but missing calibrator and dial lights). Richard, 01789 293375 (Stratford on Avon). e-mail G00GN@aol.com

FOR SALE: Eddystone 940. Silent key of EUGer. This set has been 'improved' rather poorly (hole on case for LS, etc) but working, hence £60. Must inspect and collect. Call XYL Jean Saunders (Kew) on 0181 286 7577.

FOR SALE (Ex Silent Key G3FEV) Eddystone 'EDOMETER' test set - dip meter; sig generator; 'phone monitor, etc. Brand New in mahogany case with all coils, £60. Call Geoff G2FTY (West Mids) 01527 546048.

WANTED: Eddystone 830, EA12, 730/4, preferably working, W.H.Y. Also TCS-12 Tx/Rx 1.5-12 mHz. Call Chris, (Watford) 01923-250673. e-mail: g3fxe@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: 680X Good condx, recent re-alignment, performs well, £85. Call David, (G3TVM) (Cambridge) 01223 843408 evenings.

WANTED: Mechanical tuning items for a 670C (or any type 'C', such as 840C, 770R Mk II etc). Need phosphor-bronze bearing assy which holds the tuning shaft to th front panel, also need the spring and locking nut which fit on the end of the shaft. Maybe someone has a scrap set? Reasonable price gladly paid. Contact Jack Segal on 01983 293724 or e-mail jaksegal@waitrose.com

WANTED: Model 670C cabin set. Outside must be good, but need not work. Call Graeme G3GGL, 01299 403372 (Worcestershire)