

are more *Handbooks* than Bibles over here. And to a good radio man the *Handbook* is the bible!

Continue to send me *QST* and I will be happy. Incidentally, my company commander is a radio man (Capt. Robert Brady, W2JXG). . . .

— Lt. Normand E. Tetreault, W2OPH

### CONVENTION IN CAIRO

American Legation, Beirut, The Lebanon Editor, *QST*:

. . . In Cairo in early September, W. E. Marsh, SU1WM, advised me of his plan to hold a convention of amateur radio operators in December, if enough interest were shown. Support was enthusiastic, and on the 19th of December I flew to Cairo from my post here to attend the meetings on that date. There was an informal luncheon meeting from 1100 to 1300 hours at the Britannia Restaurant, attended by 30-odd radio amateurs. At the evening meeting, 53 men who held pre-war amateur licenses in seven countries dined at the Britannia. Both meetings were largely given over to informal ragchewing and the consumption of beer, food and what-not.

To the best of my recollection, the following countries were represented: Egypt, England, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and U. S. A. The latter was represented by four men: Ken Boothe, W5PJ, of Cairo branch, U. S. Office of War Information; Charles C. Miller, W8JSU, of Beirut branch, U.S.O.W.I., and two soldiers. I think it may be inadvisable to say more than that they were a W4 and a W8.

Marsh, SU1WM, read a letter of good wishes from J. Clarricoats, G6CL, secretary of the RSGB, and expressed, on behalf of the committee, his appreciation for the interest and support of the amateurs now in the Middle East. Many other amateurs, now serving in the armed forces of Australia, South Africa, etc., were unable to obtain leave to come to Cairo on the 19th. Marsh expressed his sorrow at not having undertaken sooner such an affair, as support was instant. The assemblage voted to make the convention a semi-annual affair, and, after posing for a photo by SU1AX, departed. . . .

I'd be awfully glad to hear from any of the gang back home. Mail here is scarce, and all letters will be answered.

— Charles C. Miller, W8JSU

### FROM ONE ANONYMITY TO ANOTHER

Kippering-on-the-Charles, Mass.

Editor, *QST*:

The technical standard of *QST* has always been so high that I was somewhat amazed to find that you would accept such an ill-considered article as Sourdough's "That's the Limit!" Whether his mental lapse is due to going without shoes for such a long time or from having his raw meat ration cut to a few pounds a week is beside the point, but he should realize that his proposed system would be effective only when the transmitter sig-

nal is within the pass band of the crystal filter circuit and hence affords no protection if the signals should jump over the legal limit. The different limits of the various bands would require separate crystals, and the bands above 7 Mc. would present a serious problem unless good fundamental crystals for them were available.

How, then, to achieve the desired result? It so happens that the very same problem has been under consideration in my laboratory here, and I have two solutions to it. The first bears a slight resemblance to Sourdough's proposal, but instead of crystals at each end of the band we use discriminator circuits whose mid-frequencies correspond to the band limits. The discriminator tuned to the low-frequency limit of the band is connected to give a positive signal for lower frequencies, and the discriminator at the high-frequency end is connected to give a positive signal for higher frequencies. The output of each discriminator is coupled directly to separate pentodes whose common plate circuit contains the sensitive relay, and each pentode is biased to a point just below the plate-current value which trips the relay. The operation is obvious. Any signal within the band limits gives negative signals from the discriminators and hence has no effect on the relay, but a signal outside the band limits gives a positive signal which increases the plate current of one of the pentodes and trips the relay. The discriminators will work over a much wider range than will the crystals and hence afford protection even if one has drifted 40 or 50 kc. outside. The discriminator circuits use low-drift components and are checked frequently by reference to a 100-kc. oscillator. The relay rings a gong at the same time that it cuts off the transmitter, in case the operator has been dozing.

The second solution requires the use of a panoramic-reception receiver and a 100-kc. oscillator to furnish band-limit marker pips. Its operation is obvious, and its advantage is that it gives a visual indication at all times.

We trust these suggestions will save Sourdough's time in keeping him from following a fruitless line of research.

— Larsen E. Rapp, ex-W10U

EDITOR'S NOTE. — For the benefit of the unwary, Larsen E. Rapp, ex-W10U, should be identified as the perpetrator of the April Fool story on "dynamic prognostication" in April, 1941, *QST*. However, note that this is July.

### QRK 5

408 West Defee, Goose Creek, Tex.

Editor, *QST*:

. . . I want to tell you how much I like your serial, "Who Killed the Signal?" In its simplicity it is a very good description of what goes on in a radio set. It has been a great help to me while trying to teach my wife the fundamentals of radio.

Keep up the good work.

— R. F. Dial, jr.