

GERRY SANDERSON - G2DBT

20/4/1921 - 31/3/2013

G2 Double Breasted Trousers as his family knew his call sign - started work in 1937 in the offices of Buck and Hickman Ltd tool and workshop machinery dealers. In 1939 he changed track and joined the Post Office Engineering dept., where he was involved in manual and automatic telephone exchange maintenance and construction working around the East End of London. This was a protected occupation but in 1944 he was called up and served as a Radio Mechanic in the Royal Navy, on the HMS Royal Arthur (minesweeper) serving 18 months in the Far East. In October 1946, following demob, he returned to the Post Office on exchange construction. In January 1949 he joined the Outside Broadcasting group. He was part of the team that set up the OB network for the broadcasting of the Queen's coronation. He covered a variety of venues during this time, including many FA cup finals and other big sporting events. In 1955 he decided to make a change and joined the newly formed ITA. He was part of the engineering department and involved in the planning and installation of links all over the country - from Bressay in the Shetlands to Guernsey to ensure as many people as possible could receive the TV channels initially in black and white and then colour. He retired in 1983.

Along with this very active career, raising 3 children and gardening his interest in Amateur Radio, which I believe started in the Navy, continued on a small scale. He not only liked to broadcast but also build his own equipment. He built our first TV set and also the amplifier for his stereo unit which still works today. His interest grew as he had more time to devote to his hobby. In 1973 he moved with the then IBA to Hampshire and gradually took over the third bedroom in their new home until finally it became known as "the shack".

His children were spread far and near with his second daughter living in America and his son in Canada. He gained licenses to work in both these countries and gained a certificate from the American Radio Relay League Inc. attesting to membership of the DX Century club for demonstrating two way communications with other amateur stations in at least one hundred different countries.

His eldest daughter stayed in Britain but when visiting or sharing holidays with the family he always took his portable kit. His grandsons remember one memorable occasion on the Isles of Scilly when they spotted their grandfather sitting on the highest point on Gugh with a portable aerial strapped to his head! From then on he was known as the ALIEN.

Gerry had become a member of the Winchester branch of the Amateur Radio society when he moved to Hampshire. He became the chair at the end of the eighties and often gave lectures. He often attended the Radio Ham sales at places such as Longleat and Merley. We always knew what to give him for birthday and Christmas presents.

Many shared QSL cards (all over the shack walls) and many log books later he had to cease broadcasting in order to look after his wife who had dementia. This was around 2008/9 but due to his own failing health and mobility he never managed to get on air again before he passed away.

He would be thrilled and delighted to know that his massive collection of electrical components (stored in ice cream boxes) and his equipment will continue to be used and that Amateur Radio is thriving.



PS

Jim G4NWJ and myself arranged with Dianne, Gerry's daughter, to de-commission his shack and remove the equipment so kindly donated.

It was a treasure trove of Amateur radio history; with many home-brew projects that must have given much pleasure in designing and building.

Many thanks to Dianne for her assistance and hospitality.

The equipment and spare parts are being catalogued ready for passing to club members.

The overriding feeling was that Gerry wanted his equipment to carry on giving pleasure in the Amateur Radio world.

Martin Smith M0MWS
ARAC Hon.Sec.