

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3J2

CLUB EXECUTIVE

President

Diane Bruce VA3DB
(H) 225-9920
va3db@rac.ca

A/Past President

George Roach VE3BNO
(H) 234-0885
ve3bno@rac.ca

Vice-President

Dave Green VE3TLY
(H) 728-8606
ve3tly@rac.ca

Secretary

Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ
(H) 837-7393
ve3igj@rac.ca

Treasurer

Janice Neelands VA3PAX
(H) 236-9291
va3pax@rac.ca

Director

Bryan Campbell VE3ZRK
(H) 737-3933
ve3zrk@rogers.com

Director Membership

Ernie Brown VA3OEB
(613) 225-7798
va3oeb@rac.ca

Director

Wayne Getchell VE3CZO
(H) 225-7989
getch@gamma.ca

Director

Cary Honeywell VE3EV
(H) 590-9873
ve3ev@rac.ca

Director Technical

Harrie Jones, VE3HYS
(H) 739-9365
hjones@chumottawa.com

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

May 2005

The May issue of the Groundwave is again late as I was out of the country once more. At least it was vacation and not business this time. As well, the issue has two extra pages to accommodate all the news.

The main news is in an article regarding OARC club insurance. We also learned as a byproduct of this effort, that only 76% of OARC members are RAC members. If you are not a RAC member you should join immediately as you can automatically be covered under this insurance as well.

Don't forget that the annual OARC elections of directors and the approval of next year's budget take place at the June general meeting. There will also be a discussion of future OARC general meetings.

Now is the also the time to put forward any proposals for capital projects to be funded from the Packet Working Group funds. Submit your applications to the executive.

The speaker at the May general meeting is Martin Potter, VE3OAT, who will be discussing International Amateur Radio Union monitoring. See you there.

Ian Jeffrey



MAY MEETING 7:30 pm, May 11th in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

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Membership Chair
Ernie Brown VA3OEB
(H) 225-7798
va3oeb@rac.ca

Groundwave Editor
Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ
(H) 837-7393
ve3igj@rac.ca

Accredited Examiner
Mike Kelly VE3FFK
ve3ffk@rac.ca

Coffee Guy
Bryan Campbell VE3ZRK
(H) 737-3933
ve3zrk@rogers.com

Historical
George Roach VE3BNO
(H) 234-0885
(Fax) 567-2372
ve3bno@rac.ca

Webmaster
Diane Bruce VA3DB
(H) 225-9920
va3db@rac.ca

IRLP Manager
Cary Honeywell, VE3EV
(H) 590-9873
ve3ev@rac.ca

Website
www.oarc.net



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

May 2005

Articles may be submitted for use in this publication provided that they portray events or activities that promote Amateur Radio. Letters and comments are also welcome. Submissions may be made by mail addressed to the Editor care of the OARC, or by e-mail to "ve3igj@rac.ca". Deadline for submissions occurs three days after the regular monthly meeting of the OARC.

Please support your local radio organisations. They support you!

The CAPITAL CITY FM Net meets every Monday at 20:00 hours on the club repeater **VE2CRA** to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to Amateurs in the National Capital Region.

The SWAP Net is a service provided and conducted by Ed Seib, VA3ES. This feature appears on the Capital City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Ed at 613 738 8924 or e-mail him at va3es@rac.ca. Also available on the web: <http://www.igs.net/~swap>

The POT-HOLE Net is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and is conducted every Sunday at 10:00 hours on **3.760 MHz**. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

The POT-LID CW Net is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX, and meets every Sunday, except during July and August, at 11:00 hours on **3.620 MHz**, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

The QCWA CHAPTER 70 Net meets every Thursday evening at 20:00 hours on repeater VE3TEL, **147.03** You do not have to be a QCWA member to participate.

The Ottawa Valley VHF/UHF SSB Net is sponsored by the West Carleton ARC. Look for it every Tuesday night (except the first Tuesday of the month) around 21:00 on **144.250**, (roll calls after net on 50.150, 432.150, 222.150, and 1296.100). Horizontal polarization is preferred.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club bulletin "Groundwave" is published and distributed to club members by email and mail. Publication dates may vary but it is hoped that the bulletin arrives at its destination before the events listed in it have expired. The bulletin is not published in July and August. Every effort is made to provide accurate information in the bulletin, however we are all human and mistakes can be made. The OARC accepts no responsibility for any damages that may result from this. The opinions expressed in this bulletin are only those of the author.

Voice (VHF) 146.94/146.34 100Hz output tone
(UHF) 443.300/448.300

VE3TVA Amateur Fast Scan Television Repeater
Video/audio beacon & input 439.25 MHz (audio sub. 443.75)
Video/Audio output 914 MHz (FM)

IRLP Node 2040 146.94/146.34 (VE2CRA/VE3RC)
(Code 411 for info) (Code 204 for activity)
(Code 88 for time)

For further information please contact the Repeater Chair.

Note: The IRLP link not connected to ECHOLINK. Please do not try to connect using the alpha keys on your keypad. It just confuses the operator.

Note: The IRLP link is disabled during the Capital City Net each Monday. It is disabled from 2000 to 2145 Mondays except for May to August when the link is disabled from 2000 to 2020.

VE3TEN

Tuning in the beacon so that it makes sense requires you tune to **28.175** on cw and read the tone that is there . The spaces between the elements are the higher tone. If that doesn't work, tune to **28.175.28** on lower sideband for better results.



Dates to Remember

Minutes of the April 13 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by the president, Diane Bruce (VA3DB).

It was moved by Ernie Brown (VA3OEB) and seconded by Al Oldfield (VE3ANO) that the minutes of the March meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

There were three visitors. William a non-ham who heard about the OARC meetings from one of Ben's public awareness appearances, Christopher (VE3PAY) and Jeff, a non-ham who heard about the meeting via the web site.

Diane then introduced the participants for this year's Homebrew Night.

Bryan (VE3ZRK) presented a cross-band repeater that he had assembled using some surplus transceivers. It had been put to the test during the recent Canadian Ski Marathon.

Clare (VE3NPC) demonstrated a home made Transmit/Receive switch using a relay for switching VHF and UHF transceivers for satellite work. He used an inexpensive relay packaged in a metal enclosure and was able to achieve a VSWR of 1.2:1.

Mike (VE3FFK) outlined some course material that he had prepared for prospective hams. The material included modules on repeaters, 12VDC practicalities, amateur radio participation in public events, improvised antennas, avoiding miscommunication while on the air, and nets, their structure and operating procedures.

Chris Gibran described a homebrew interface between a transceiver and PC. It included PTT control via the PC serial port and used optical isolation.

Clare, VE3NPC was asked to deliberate on a winner over the coffee break.

Harold (VA3UNK) announced details of this year's Field Day which will take place on June 25/6 at 175 Main St. where it has been held in recent years. He is looking for operators, as well as radio and computer equipment. Janice has again agreed to provide food. Setup will begin on Saturday at 10:30. Field Day operation runs from 18:00 UTC on Sat. until 18:00 UTC on Sunday.

Chris Gibran announced that he had passed his basic exam

2005

February 12,13	Canadian Ski Marathon
April 13	Homebrew Night
June 8	OARC Annual General Meeting & Elections
June 25,26	Field Day
July 1	RAC Canada Day Contest
September 3	OARC Hamfest
September 30	Membership Renewal Deadline
November 9	Joe Norton Award Submission Deadline
December 17	RAC Winter Contest

and is awaiting official notification of his call sign. There was a round of applause from the members.

Mike (VE3FFK) announced the upcoming EMRG meeting for May 7 at the Ottawa Fire Training Centre, 898 Industrial Ave. See www.emrg.ca for details.

Diane announced that a draft of the newly prepared OARC QSL card will soon appear on the OARC web site.

Dave (VE3TLY) announced that the speaker for the May meeting will be VE3OAT, who will speak on Intrusion Monitoring for the IARU.

Ken (VE3CV) asked if anyone could provide advice regarding the installation of antennas onboard sailboats.

Ben (VE3CDA) made a few RAC-related announcements. He mentioned the new RAC membership card, and the new liability insurance plan for RAC members and clubs.

Rick Furniss (VE3IHI) outlined a new version of "Radio Mobile", a software package especially useful for plotting line-of-sight radio coverage on V/UHF. The current version is called "Radio Mobile Deluxe". It makes use of publicly available high resolution data bases to generate elevation plots. Canadian data is now available. The package can be used to predict signal strength from a specified transmitter site out to 120 km with an angular resolution of 1/10 of a degree. An interesting tool for estimating the coverage of your station or a repeater. Perhaps its most remarkable feature is that it's FREE!

After the break, George (VE3BNO) reminded everyone of the upcoming Ontario QSO party which runs April 16-17 from 18:00 EDT on Saturday to 18:00 EDT Sun.

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Free logging software is available via the web.

mk's Words

Harold (VA3UNK) described the special event call sign that will be available to all Canadian radio amateurs this May. This is to commemorate the 60th anniversary of VE-Day and the opening of the Canadian War Museum. Details can be found at www.rac.ca.

Ernie (VA3OEB) presented the current membership information. We currently have 86 paid members with 1 new member joining this evening. This compares to a membership of about 100 last year. Ernie asked all past members who haven't yet signed up this year to please do so.

VE2CRA, the club's repeater at Camp Fortune, is to be improved. Diane announced that Harry Jones (VEHYS) is planning to add two slave receivers and an up-to-date controller. These changes should improve coverage especially in downtown Ottawa and to areas well to the east of the city.

Clare Fowler announced that Mike (VE3FFK) was the winner of this year's Homebrew night. Diane granted an "Honourable Mention" to Chris Gibran.

Tonight's 50/50 draw was won by Mike Kelly who now had to carry home a \$20 bill along with his Homebrew Night honours.

It was moved by Mike Kelly that the meeting be adjourned at 20:55. It was carried.

Dave Green (VE3TLY - part-time secretary)

Ottawa, the national capital of Canada, on May 8, 2005, coincides with the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day -- VE Day -- which, on May 8, 1945, officially ended the Second World War in Europe. The year 2005 has been declared The Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government in recognition and commemoration of the determination, service and sacrifice of Canada's WW II veterans. Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 May to 31 May, 2005 inclusive:

- CF for VA stations
- CG for VE stations
- CH for VO stations
- CI0 for VY0 stations
- CI1 for VY1 stations
- CI2 for VY2 stations.

This month's "words" will be a little shorter than usual. I'm sending the text to the editor via packet radio (remember that from your pre-internet days- it is still around.)

Things seem to be hotting up in radio land. There have been a couple of work parties with EMRG, more time at Collegeville, dodging ice storms and train wrecks, and the flea market season is upon us already. There hasn't been any time for spring.

The April (homebrew night) edition of the OARC meeting was a memorable one for me. I have won both the homebrew prize and the 50-50 draw before, but never at the same meeting.

Maybe sometime you'll get to see more of the training sessions that you got a glimpse of at the meeting. The sessions are never really finished, of course but they are close enough to use. They are designed to fill in the blank spots between getting a new Basic licence and being an effective communicator in a public service type of operation. The seven segments that are in the package so far are: Formal Nets for Amateurs, The Ins and Outs of Repeaters, Miscommunication and How to Avoid Her, Amateur Radio for Things a Thons, 12VDC and the Radio Amateur, Antennas for Unusual Situations, Net Control Centre of the Universe. There needs to be one on radio operations in adverse weather conditions, and I'm sure I have missed a few topics along the way. What other things do hams have to know to be effective communicators?

That's it for now. (I told you it would be short this month)

73.. think field day mk

Special Prefixes Authorized to Celebrate Opening of the New Canadian War Museum and VE Day + 60.



At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the month of May, 2005, to mark the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa on 8 May, 2005 coincident with the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

The official opening of the new Canadian War Museum in



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May 2005

Treasurer's Update—GIC's

Huge Insurance Savings Thanks to RAC

I have good news to report on the insurance front.

As you know, over the past few years the club has been plagued by escalating insurance bills. Last year we had hoped that by decommissioning the ATV repeater we could reduce our liability coverage from \$5M to \$1M thereby reducing the premium we paid. Unfortunately a 30% hike in insurance rates wiped out any savings we might have gained, and we still paid \$2,400 for only \$1M in liability coverage. (Liability insurance pays for damage caused by club activities or equipment.)

This year, however, we were pleased to learn that RAC has arranged for \$5M in liability coverage to be extended to individual RAC members as well as to amateur radio clubs. Individuals are covered automatically as long as they are paid-up RAC members. Clubs are covered if they're RAC-affiliated and incorporated; the OARC is both. We were also required to show what percentage of our club members belong to RAC, as this determines what rate we pay—the higher the percentage membership, the lower the rate. In the end, we paid \$100 based on 76% membership. Our coverage is superior to what we were receiving on the commercial market, and the club saves an amazing \$2,300 or 42% of our annual operating budget!

Needless to say, we're grateful to RAC for this initiative, and especially to Doug Leach, VE3XK, who has spent a number of months working with an insurance broker on the details. For further information, consult <http://www.rac.ca/service/liabins.htm>.

I would encourage those of you who do not belong to RAC to join. Not only will you benefit personally from the coverage, but the OARC will pay lower rates as a result.

Janice Neelands - VA3PAX

Treasurer

During the annual budget presentation last June, some members expressed concern that club GIC's should be earning a greater return. I promised to look into the matter.

At the time, our GIC's were earning between 1.5% and 2% annually. They were cashable at any time, but cashability always comes at a price—lower interest rates. If we wanted higher rates, we would have had to forfeit liquidity and lock our money in for several years at a time, losing access to it. In other words, we faced the usual tradeoff between liquidity and return.

Fortunately, however, many banks have come out with a product that gives a little bit of both worlds. Called a "ladder GIC", you lock your money in for periods of time that are long enough to earn a decent return, but every year on the anniversary date you can have access to one-fifth of the money.

By way of a bit of background, the GIC's I'm referring to pertain to all the money in excess of what we need to run the club on a day-to-day basis. Some of this excess money is earmarked for specific purposes, like the Joe Norton Award or the Packet Working Group Money (for capital projects).

I put the Joe Norton money, which currently stands at \$13,300, in a 5-year ladder GIC earning 3.5%. Its anniversary date is January, in time for the granting of the award. At that time, we can potentially access one-fifth of the \$13,300 or \$2,660; however, the \$500 we require for the award falls well below this threshold.

As for the remainder of the money, which totals \$26,726, I decided to split it roughly into three ladder GIC's whose anniversary dates are spread evenly throughout the year. In this way we can gain access to one-fifth or 20% of our money throughout the course of the year, if we need it. Every year on its anniversary date, each GIC gets extended for one year more at the going rate of interest. This is great when interest rates are going up. If interest rates are go-

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Historic Special Event Call Sign to mark Opening of Canadian War Museum



Industry Canada has issued an authorization to Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, to operate May 7 to 14 inclusive using the special event call sign CF3VEDAY. The authorization is to mark the opening of the new Canadian War Museum on May 8, 2005, a date that coincides with the 60th anniversary of VE-DAY, which ended World War Two in Europe. The special call sign is historic in that this is the first time that an Amateur Radio call sign having a five-letter suffix has been issued in Canada. VE3BDB and other members of The Wireless Set No. 19 Group will alternate modern equipment with vintage WW II era military radios during the seven-day operation.

Operating dates for historic Special Event Station CF3VEDAY have now been confirmed. The station will operate from May 5 to May 12 inclusive to celebrate the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Canada on May 8, a date which coincidentally is the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE-DAY). In addition, 2005 has been declared Year of the Veteran. All Radio Amateurs are asked to observe these important events by working the Special Event station and inviting Veterans into their radio shacks. This is the first time that a 5-letter suffix has been issued for Amateur Radio in Canada. For more information, including operating schedules, check the CF3VEDAY website at www.qsl.net/cf3veday.

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at its moorings, another explosion occurred, which caused additional damage and injured one of the deck-hands. The next morning the harbour was evacuated as much as possible, and all ships able to navigate had to leave port. The Maasdam, however had sustained damage on such an extensive scale, that putting out to sea was utterly impossible.

... One morning after the 'all clear' had been sounded, a police constable came on board with the message that everybody would have to leave the ship, the reason being that close to the Maasdam a large unexploded bomb was reported to be lying at the bottom of the dock. Having left their ship the crew --- were cordially received on board a Belgian ship which was moored at a location away from the danger zone. All day long they waited for the explosion of that bomb, but nothing happened, so that night they all went back to their ship. The Maasdam then underwent a series of repairs, and finally departed Liverpool for New York on 12

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ing down, we have the option of freezing the GIC at the original rate and letting it run its term.

As a result, we now earn 3.5% annually on a GIC worth \$7,576 that comes due every March. We earn 4.25% on another GIC worth \$11,804 that comes due in July.

Much of the money which would have gone into a November GIC (\$7,346) will now be used to upgrade the repeater. However, on upcoming anniversary dates, I should be able to move money out of March and July in order to create a November GIC, thereby spreading the access evenly throughout the year. (The money that will be used to upgrade the repeater is Packet Working Group money designated for capital projects.)

Should you have any questions, concerns or even free advice, feel free to email me at va3pax@rac.ca or else buttonhole me at a club meeting.

Janice Neelands – VA3PAX, Treasurer

May 1941."

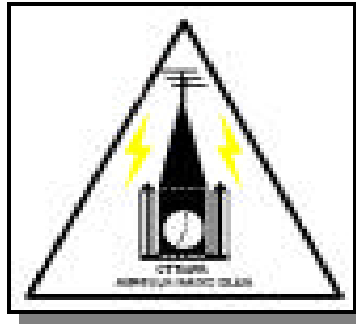
Not mentioned in the captain's report was the fact that our direction finding antenna was destroyed. It was a crossed loop antenna, with open windings on wooden frames. It was beyond repair.

We joined a west-bound convoy and proceeded without incident to about mid-ocean where the convoy scattered on the 19th, each ship proceeding independently. The old Maasdam cranked up to 16 knots! Our heading was due west. On the 20th, the chief operator and myself copied a series of 'SSSS' signals from ships that may have been in our convoy. (The wartime 'SSSS' signal was used to report a submarine sighting or being torpedoed. The 'RRRR' signal indicated a surface raider. The message would include only the ship's name and position.) Four of the signals reported being torpedoed, two more signals reported sighting a submarine, or a suspicious object. Each signal report was a little closer behind us! No further signals were heard. On May 24th we were in heavy fog, proceeding at dead slow until the fog lifted about 0800. [Historical note: HMS Hood and the Bismark met on this date somewhere to the north and east of our position.] On May 25th we suddenly found the air warm and humid – we had entered the Gulf Stream! We docked in New York May 29th, and the following day I went home on shore leave.

Next month, Convoy HX133 comes under attack.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

is pleased to announce its 9th Annual



Hamfest

Saturday, September 3, 2005 (Labour Day weekend)

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 9 am

Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Radio Amateurs of Canada Forum and Technology Update: 1 pm - 4 pm (approx)

**Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds
3970 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)
Ottawa (Carp), Ontario**

From Ottawa take Highway 417 west to Carp Road exit, north to the fairgrounds.

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site.

\$5 general admission

\$10/table (plus admission)

\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

We will once again be offering an excellent door prize. Details will follow.

The OARC is proud to sponsor the RAC Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Ben Price (VE3CDA), RAC's Ontario North/East Director, as Moderator.

For further information or reservations contact:

Greg Danylchenko (VE3Y TZ)

Tel: (613) 236-9291(H)

E-mail: fleamarket@oarc.net



Merchant Navy Sparks

Recollections of Ernie Brown [va3oeb@rac.ca]

On May 8th this year, we remember the casualties of the Battle of the Atlantic in Remembrance services across the country. In Ottawa there will be a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial at Elgin and Wellington, as well as in just about every town in the country.

Convoy HX119 sailed eastward with only minor problems, such as heavy fog that made station-keeping rather difficult. Each ship in the columns trailed a keg on a long rope astern, which the lookout on the following ship tried to keep in view. Sometimes it would get lost in the waves and collisions would happen. We had one very close encounter, but missed the tanker ahead by a very small margin. It looked as if one could have stepped from our rail to their deck. Other ships were not so lucky and some had to turn back to Halifax to repair the damage to their bows. Later we had heavy weather with very large waves. One corvette came in between the columns to ease the pitch and roll, but the motion of that little ship was still very rough. I could not imagine what it must have been like for that crew! After 21 days from New York, we docked in Liverpool in the Huskisson Docks. Offloading proceeded with everyone busy, but I had no assigned duties. I explored downtown Liverpool and saw some shows, until the air raids started in early May. As the air raids continued I learned what it is to be afraid – shaking like a scared pup, listening to the whistle of the bombs, and wondering if there was a big one among them. We would hear the small incendiaries clattering on the deck, and the officers rushed out with shovels to scoop them over the side before the next wave fell on us. Fortunately they were able to get rid of all that fell on our ship – if one had lodged in an inaccessible spot, our ship would have been toast. A warehouse across the roadway ahead of our dock burned fiercely all one night. The ship in the next dock on the far side of a warehouse, was also burning, along with the cargo already piled in the warehouse across the water from us. A stack of sides of beef slowly roasted and burned, the fat running out to the dockside and burning all the way down the face of the dock, and in a pool on the water!

In 1992 I obtained a copy of our captain's report "In the Hellfire of Liverpool", published in "Shipping in Wartime" [in the Dutch language] by S. J. Van Limburg Stirum. This was translated for me by W. G. Bruyn, VE3JBW. The

following excerpts are from the captain's report:

"During these nocturnal raids it seemed as if all hell had broken loose. Exploding bombs caused an earsplitting roar, and in between one could hear the whistling shriek of falling bombs and the crack of anti-aircraft guns. The Maasdam would then shake and tug at its hawsers and mooring cables while all sorts of debris were falling on deck, such as bricks, rocks, roof tiles, shards etc. Therefore if there were no incendiaries on deck to take care of, the crew would shelter underdecks. In the city itself conditions were dreadful during these bombardments, and the crew with shore leave preferred to stay on board instead. Immense fires were burning every night in the city as well as in the docks. Operations of the A.F.S. (volunteer firefighters) were much admired by the crew of the Maasdam. From the ship they could see how these firemen, disregarding the bombs whistling down everywhere, set up their pumps at quayside and calmly started to extinguish fires in a blazing warehouse. When finally the 'all clear' had been given, these firemen were invited to come on board of the Maasdam, to at least refresh themselves...."

One Saturday night the Germans seemed to have targeted the port area in particular. --- That night all piers in the area of the Maasdam were set on fire including a neighbouring refrigeration plant. When finally at 0400AM the 'all clear' signal had been given, the crew of the Maasdam went to their bunks for some rest after the terrible night. Captain J. Boshoff, who furnished the details for this report, recounted that he then woke up at seven o'clock from a heavy shock, being thrown out of his bunk. Dressing quickly, he ran on deck where a large-scale destruction had occurred. All mooring lines had snapped, and the Maasdam was lying in mid-dock with the forecastle against a British ship where a fire was blazing on deck. All cargo hold covers had blown up into the air, and fallen back on deck. The same had happened to covers and caps of ventilator shafts. In the cabins all portholes had been blown out, and everything was ripped off the walls. The 5 cargo derricks on hold no. 5 had been broken in half and the remaining pieces could not be found. All the loose railings had disappeared, and the ladder up the funnel had been twisted all over. On deck was found a red hot deeptank cover, and many other glowing pieces of steel, 15 to 20 feet long. -- -- it appeared that a ship carrying munitions, moored two piers further down, had blown up entirely. The Anchors of this ship were retrieved later on at a distance of 5 miles. While working on securing the Maasdam again

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KENWOOD

TS-480HX/TS-480SAT

HF/50MHz All-Mode Transceiver

KENWOOD
NETWORK COMMAND SYSTEM
with Voice over Internet Protocol capability



Bytown Marine Limited
5 Corvus Court
Ottawa, K2E 7Z4

Tel: (613) 723-8424
Fax: (613) 723-0212
gwalker@bml.ca