

Water Under the Bridge

By John Mulye G0VEH

As the saying goes a lot has flown since I was first licensed. That was late in 1965 and as



This photo was taken not long after I sold it to G8EAY who used it for again, a number of years until it clapped out.

previously written; everything had to be built from scratch. I was rooting around and found a number of photos from my early days of amateur radio. These were from about 1967–70 and show my home made 2m mobile arrangement. The vehicle I had at the time was a Ford Thames 15cwt caravanette, 3 gear, vacuum wiper van. It had everything necessary for portable working and slept two comfortably. I had this for a number of years and it travelled to Switzerland and back (for a contest) as well as all over the county.

The rig consists from left to right, valve modulator, 2m exciter and control unit / inverter. Mick is twiddling the Eddystone EC10 receiver that was the tuneable IF (4-6 MHz). The converter was a home-made transistor type. It was of course AM in those days, crystal controlled and we tuned the IF, low to high. The aerial was a J-BEAM 8ele Yagi at about 20ft. Power output was about 8w.

These were happy days; we were young and keen and thought nothing of staying up all night during lifts and contests.



Mick, G8BUF, operating from, I think, Dartmoor.

My very first mobile / portable operation, occurred just after I obtained my N.O.V. for such operation.



That was, I think, around 1966 and was 70cms only. We were only allowed 70cms and up at that time. This was literally my home station loaded into my old Ford Prefect and a dipole held out of the passenger window by G8APJ as I drove to the mobile rally at Gilwell Park. All powered by a dynamotor off the car battery.

We worked a number of stations in south London as well as one at Gilwell. We were viewed with some distain as most mobiles operated on 160m. Many were surprised that we were working over distances that were difficult on 160m and getting good reports. Again all this on AM and low power. I think the output power from my rig was about 1w.

Unfortunately photography in those days tended to be expensive, and therefore there are very few photos of the early days. Of course one does not, at the time think such photos are of any interest, but 40 years on ones past assumes a greater importance.

73

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