K.W.Radio Club ~1965

Where to be called a 'Ham'

IF you called one of the members a "Ham" it would not be necessary to step back out of reach of his fist. In fact he would probably be quite gratified. And so would any one else who belonged to the K.W. Radio Club in Dartford.

The Club was started two years ago by keen short wave enthusiasts working for K.W. Electronics Limited of Heath Street, The Dartford firm who design and manufacture communications equipment.

Now with a membership that is increasing all the time the Club have decided to throw open their doors to other young radio fans interested in amateur radio.

The present membership ranges from apprentices to development engineers. A total of approximately 20, including 12 with amateur radio transmitting licences with their own call signs.

Has first-class radio men

The intention of the Club explained Mr. Rowley Shears, a Director of the Company, is "To promote interest in the art of short-wave reception and transmission, and to teach morse and other technical subjects."

This includes visits to places of interest, attending lectures and general fact finding.

Although an amateur organisation the club boast some really first class radio men. Last year they won the trophy for the National Field Day Contest organised by the Radio Society of Great Britain after competing against 200 contestants. And they are going to enter again this year.

"We are going to build our own transmitter and receiver," said Mr. Shears. In the event this year operation over a week-end will be arranged from tents in a local sports ground using portable equipment, aerials and generators to simulate an emergency. Contacts are expected to be made with all continents and especially with portable stations operating in the British Commonwealth.

The firm itself has a fine record in the industry. It has on display three silver plaques awarded for equipment design and production which they won at the Radio Communications Exhibition in 1960, 1962 and 1963.

Circulated the schools

What made the Club decided to open the membership to those outside the Firm we asked Mr. Shears when the "Reporter" spoke to him this week.

"Quite a lot of people have expressed disappointment about not being able to belong to such a club," he explained, "for as far as we know we are the only one in Dartford. Those that were interested could not join because they were not employed by the Firm.

"We managed to hire a Scout hall and now we have circulated to schools in the district telling them about the club."

The Hall is at Broomhill Road, Dartford and meetings are to be held every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Those interested in joining should contact the Secretary Mrs. June Futter at K.W. Electronics Limited.

Dartford Reportor newspaper, 14th May 1965

Press cuttings from Dartford local newspapers - courtesy of Dartford Central Library Local History Section

AWARD TO DARTFORD FIRM

A DARTFORD firm were last week awarded a silver plaque for the best piece of manufacturing equipment in the Radio Communications Exhibition, opened in London by Mr. F. C. McLean, director of engineering of the B.B.C.

The plaque was presented to Mr. R. G. Shears, the managing director of K.W. Electroncis, Ltd., Vanguard Works, Heath-street.

The equipment, a radio communications transceiver can be used by radio amateurs or for point to point radio communication. It is particularly useful in out-lying areas where there is no line communication.

Mr. Shears, who lives at Birchwood-road, Wilmington, will be flying to Moscow shortly, where he hopes to receive orders from the Russians for the prizewinning equipment. En route he has business appointments in Stockholm and Helsinki.

Kentish Times newspaper November 8, 1963

SAFETY WAS NOT FORGOTTEN

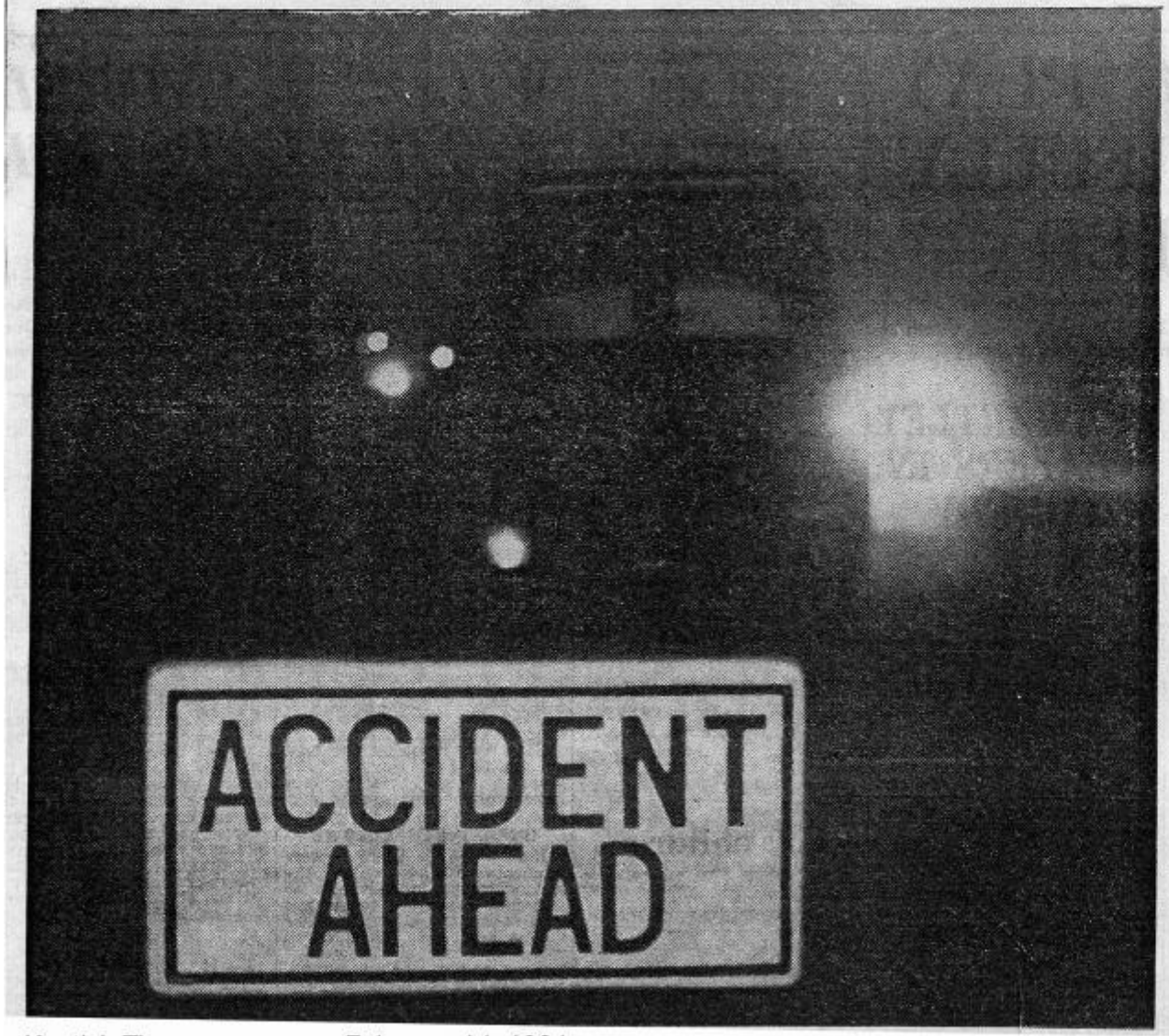
TOSSING and rolling in mid Atlantic are two brave Englishmen attempting to row across that watery waste. They are 29-year-old John Hoare from Leicester and 34-year-old David Johnstone from Farnham, Surrey.

Their 15 foot craft "Puffin" is packed out with food, supplies and safety devices. But the most important part of their equipment is a "SAFCOM" emergency radio-telephone made in the factory of K. W. Electronics Ltd., at Heath Street, Dartford.

Setting out from Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the weekend the pair hope to row across the Atlantic in under 50 days.

Dartford Reporter newspaper May 27, 1966

PHOTO FOCUS... *on new motorway signs*



FOLLOWING the wide interest in Ministry of Transport experiments with motorway warning signs, a Dartford firm (K. W. Electronics, Ltd.) are planning to produce a range of portable, battery operated, transistorised units which could be used by police and rescue services, as well as individual lorry drivers and transport fleets.

FLASHES

The units emit high-intensity flashes which can be seen at a distance, even in fog, and will operate continuously for 750 hours without attention on one battery.

They will be available in a wide range of wording to cover accidents, fog, ice, breakdowns, etc., for motorway use, and special applications for railway and airport use.

Similar units are already in wide use in the United States, mostly by the armed Forces and other Government departments.

Kentish Times newspaper February 14, 1964