

RMS Titanic

NEWS from... GB95MGY



Jack
Phillips:
Titanic's
Chief
Wireless
Telegraphist

95th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC

HEROISM OF JACK PHILLIPS CELEBRATED IN MARATHON RADIO LINK UP

Early on the morning of Monday 16 April, 2007, a team of amateur radio enthusiasts will complete a marathon international radio link up lasting 43 hours and 47 minutes.

The team, comprising members of Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group, will operate from a special radio station set up in Godalming, Surrey, to honour the memory of Jack Phillips, Chief Wireless Telegraphist of the ill-fated RMS Titanic, which went down on her maiden voyage to New York 95 years ago.

Born and bred in Godalming, Jack, 25, stayed at his post sending out distress signals in morse code before losing his life when the liner – believed to be unsinkable – sank 2 hours and 40 minutes after hitting an iceberg. 1523 lives were lost, but 705 survivors were picked up by the Carpathia, alerted to the ship's plight by Jack's signals.

The radio station, GB95MGY (Titanic's callsign was MGY), located in the main hall of Godalming College, Tuesley Lane, Godalming, will begin transmissions in morse code at 11.00 am on Saturday 14 April and continue until 6.47 am (5.47 hrs GMT), on Sunday 15 April, the precise time at which the Titanic sank on the same day in 1912. At this point, transmissions will cease for a time to mark the sinking, but will then continue until 6.47 am the following day, to extend the opportunity for radio amateurs worldwide to join in the commemoration.

The radio station will be open to the public between the hours of 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm on Saturday, 14 April and between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm on Sunday 15 April. Admission will be free. The station will feature a unique exhibition of many types of early morse senders and receivers arranged by the British Vintage Wireless Society. There will also be a display of amateur radio equipment, records (QSLs), confirming previous contacts with stations worldwide and Titanic memorabilia.

Note for Editors:

In April 2002, special amateur station GB90MGY, also located in Godalming, commemorated the 90th anniversary of the sinking, by making contacts with 2685 radio amateurs in more than 100 countries throughout the world.

Note for radio amateurs and short wave listeners:

The special event commemorative station – call sign GB95MGY – will be active on morse (CW) only, on amateur bands from 80-10 metres. Transmissions will run from 10.00 hrs GMT on Saturday 14 April until 5.47 hrs GMT on Sunday 15 April – the precise time in the UK that the Titanic sank 95 years ago. There will then be a short pause, following which transmissions will continue for another 24 hours, ceasing on Monday 16 April at 5.47 hrs GMT. QSOs will be confirmed 100% via the bureau.

Contact for further information:

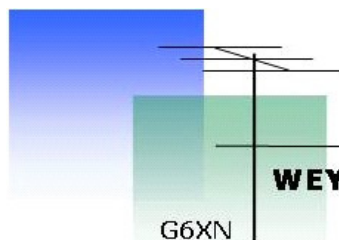
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WEY VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO GROUP

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain
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