

Lhasa
c/o Gyantse P.O.,
Tibet
Via Siliguri
W. Bengal,
India

Sunday 27th Feb. <1949>

Dear 6RH

Many thanks indeed for your letter received yesterday and also for the QSO on ten metres (I'm enclosing - confirmation). I'm certainly looking forward to another QSO next week and more to follow.

I think the main reason for you not having heard AC4 before is probably our rather erratic working. It's not always possible to stay up to 1 & 2 in the morning to attempt to work G, whereas the W's do come in around 7 in the evening – a more convenient time. 10 metres is of course the answer.

At the moment Reg (AC4YN) is on holiday down in India. He's been away since early December, but will probably be back in about a month's time.

Well, the details of my rig at the moment are as follows – EL32 xtal osc to 6L6 final – in fact a B2 slightly modified. You will probably know the B2 – I see a number advertised in the Short Wave Mag & the Bulletin. I'm screen modulating the 6L6 with a 6SN7 and the modulator has been built in the “ spares box “. All in all it makes quite a compact and also useful QRP rig.

I seldom use phone at the moment due to the low her but I do get good reports from China and particularly India. I can usually manage to put a S9 fone signal into Calcutta most evenings on 20. (After working you yesterday I did try fone with G2XK and was actually heard). The antenna is a long wire and the receiver is a Hallicrafter S29.

As there are no mains in Lhasa here (neither AC nor DC) I have to run the B2 from a six volt battery and the Rx on dry batteries. All this is rather a humbug but I must say I do get a kick out of putting a decent signal into G or W.

It's rather a temporary set up here in Lhasa for me so I haven't bothered putting up anything decent in the antenna line. I shall be moving shortly to another QTH in Tibet. Then I do hope to get up something decent. I have ideas of an 8JK. If it's not possible to rotate it then I'll have to put up two or three fixed arrays. One will be for G of course.

That's the whole snag in Tibet. Anywhere else I could go round the shops, etc. and pick up odds and ends. There's absolutely nothing here I can assure you- that's of course in the radio or engineering line. However we do have fun!!

All my gear if I order any has to come from India & that's quite a journey. It takes at least a month to get goods up and then the packages have to be of a size suitable for mule transport. The cost also is not too cheap. You can no doubt imagine what it would be like trying to arrange a small engine, getting it up here & then keeping it provided with petrol. I certainly could never afford it. Ham radio then I'm afraid become much too expensive.

However I may possibly be able to increase power later on. I'm keeping my fingers crossed !

Lhasa is of course the capital of Tibet although not a very large place by our standards. We're 17000 feet above sea level. The people and Govt. officials are grand people. I've certainly never experienced such hospitality anywhere else in my rather limited travels – not even in England.

Well Bob in your letter you made the offer to help in the Radio line. There is one thing you could do for me. I would like to get hold of any pamphlets giving details and cost etc. of Communications Transmitters and Receivers & also of test equipment of all kinds. I am particularly interested in transmitters of about the 100 watt input size. Any information you can get hold of would be very welcome. It would save me a lot of trouble circulating companies at home.

Also I would appreciate if you would regard these enquiries as private. I wouldn't like any publicity in the matter at this stage.

To get back to Ham radio. After finishing you and Ford yesterday I had QSO's with 6LX and 2XK and they both asked me to enclose confirmations in your letter. I wonder if you would mind forwarding them. I do hope I will get my cards soon. You can rest assured just as soon as I get them there will be one in the post for you.

I guess that's just about all the news for this time. If you have the time and care to write, I will always be pleased to hear from you.

Cheerio for now.

Lots of DX

Yours sincerely

Bob Ford

(AC4RF)

P.S. For anyone who is interested 4YN and myself are the only AC4's. ALL others are phoney. Even Reg and I are often pirated -Goodness only knows why !

<Transcription: Anthoby Quest, G4UZN>