

**WIA - ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW & TAPE to CD CONVERSION**

|                            |   |  |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>TITLE</b>               |   | <b>R.C. Hiam XLD (Later 3LW and VK3LW)</b> |  |
| <b>Person Interviewed:</b> | Robert Charles Hiam (93 years old)                                |  | <b>Further Information</b>   |
| <b>Subject matter:</b>     | Radio pre, during and after WW I as an experimenter and with Navy |  | Interviewed at the suggestion of Dr. Bill Williamson VK3BCW. Mrs Helen Warren arranged interview. Hiam was an early experimenter, licenced before WW I, possibly 1910. PW note. Hiam involved with first S/W tests with R Hull, HK Love etc. |
| <b>Address/Phone No.</b>   |   |  |  |
| <b>Date of original:</b>   | c1981   |  |  |
| <b>Interviewed By:</b>     | Charles Ryan VK3BIT (Recorded by John Ryan VK3AZA)                |  |  |
| <b>Re-recorded:</b>        | <b>Date:</b> 1/09/2012  | <b>By:</b> P.Wolfenden VK3RV               |  |
| <b>CD Number:</b> 30       | <b>Total Time:</b> 19.46  | <b>Ref. No.:</b>                           |  |
| <b>DETAIL:</b>             |   |  |  |
| <b>Part/Track Number</b>   | <b>Approx Time in:</b>  | <b>Points/Issues Discussed</b>             | <b>Source/Copyright</b>  |
|                            |   |  | Unknown  |

|         |       |  |
|---------|-------|--|
| Track 1 | 0.00  | General Introduction and Identification<br>Born 1888. Experimental Licence issued in 1910, XLD, Navy Licence to experiment in 1916(?)  |
|         | 0.45  | Dabbling in radio about 4 years before WW I. Licenced 1910. Went to Navy Dept. at Williamstown Melbourne.  |
|         | 1.30  | Into Signal School. Morse 12wpm, Two weeks training then onto Transport ship "Vestaliar" (or "Westralia")?   |
|         | 3.15  | Wireless fitted to carry troops. Rx Telefunken, Tx by Father Shaws company, a spark coil and rotary gap. Power 30 watts at home (as experimenter) and about 500 watts on ship. |
|         | 5.30  | 300 and 600 metre wavelength on ship.  |
|         | 6.00  | Explains ship installation and how it was rushed. Fuse burnt his fingers - wrong wiring.   |
|         | 7.30  | Test transmission underway between Cape Otway and Adelaide with good strength.   |
|         | 8.15  | Describes wire antenna installation on ship.   |
|         | 10.20 | Maxm. Range: 500 mile no trouble. Stations at Cocos Island, Mauritius, Seychelles.   |
|         | 11.40 | Plain language used most of time. In Mediterranean used simple five letter code.   |
|         | 12.47 | 110 volt generator driven by steam. Normally 50 lamps on ship, increased to some 250 when used as troop ship. Lights went out when he keyed Tx.                                |
|         | 14.00 | Had to "doctor" supply fuse to keep station on air.  |
|         | 15.30 | After war, went to H/F operation.  |
|         | 16.50 | Interference from Doctor's medical equipment.  |
|         | 17.20 | Amateur radio, many were boys. Victor Nightingall (XKK) had a good plant which was sent to King Island by the authorities.   |
|         | 19.18 | Acknowledgement announcement.  |