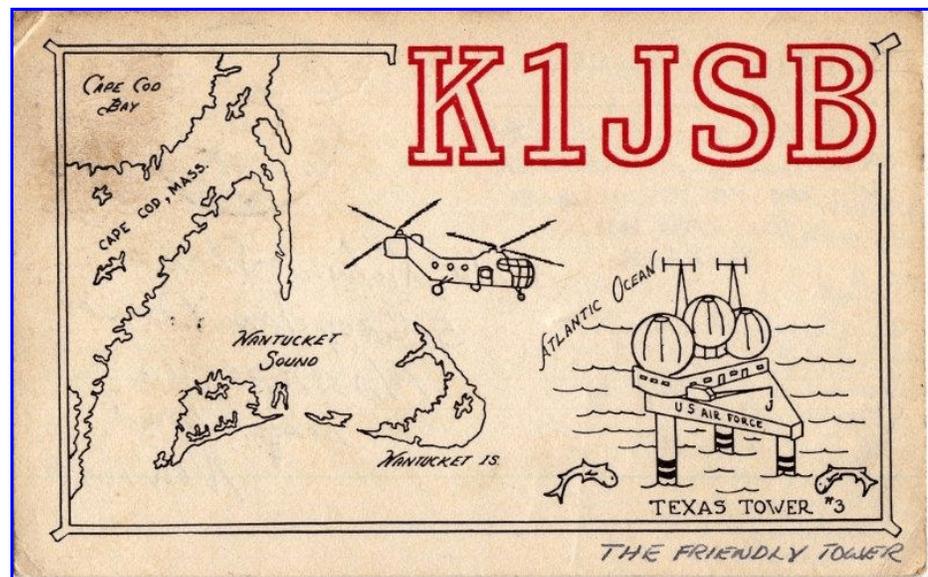


A fascinating subject and not without its own tragedy in military service to our nation. By the early 1950's the cold war was rampant and it was decided to have M.I.T. plan original construction needs for early warning radar structures manned by the Air Force off the east coast of the U.S.A. Five towers were planned and only structures Two, Three and Four were placed in service. Texas Towers were the title of these radar systems and there were plans to have dorm type existence with every thing needed for continuous habitation. We are featuring the QSL from Texas Tower Three which wasn't involved in the fatal mishap. The towers rocked and swayed in heavy seas. In a ominous way each of these 3 towers had its own distinctive movements. (Look Mag note)

Texas Tower Four had severe structure problems and had weathered 2 cyclones already in a two year period prior to its fatal collapse (Sunday 7-33PM January 15 - 1961.) A reduced crew of Military personnel and civilians were aboard when the tragedy took place.

Radar technology had improved so well that it was decided that the Texas Tower program was obsolete after the 1961 incident. There is a NOAA weather data buoy station at the site of TT4 to this present day, using satellite to project the weather data from that same spot, buoy 44066, which can be dialed up on the internet to ascertain the present weather and sea conditions. A K8CX QSL card.



Featuring TT-3 QSL card dated 8 July 1960, George Day was the operator of 4604<sup>th</sup> Support Group personnel. Texas Tower Three was located 50 miles southeast of the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, in 80 feet of water. The 4604<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron was located at nearby Otis Air Force Base serviced the operations. With the advent of Soviet (ICBM's) the bomber threat was reduced in importance. Thus due to a lower need and the perceived risk, the remaining tower complex was decommissioned in 1963 and demolished shortly thereafter.



TT2 Ham Shack featured to the left. The old trusty BC610 had a long existence. Many are in service to this day. Bruce Lawrence picture K1FDJ-mm.

W8SU 2010