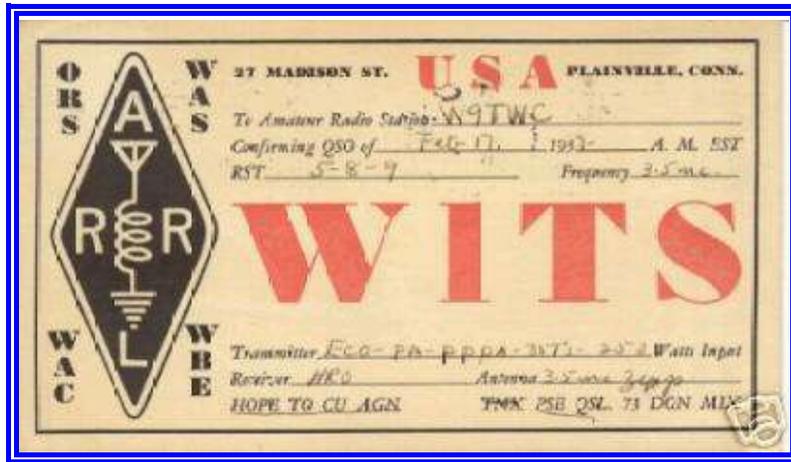


Donald H. Mix WITS *1901-1973* A Bristol, CT native, Don was a early natural for the new radio/wireless world. There have been questions about who this man was. The answer quite simply, Mix was one of the greatest Dx'ers who ever picked up a key. An ARRL HQ employee, he wrote occasionally for QST, an all-time favorite QST article was by WITS "Ivory Tower Confessions" in which he talked about Dxing with a dipole. (July 59 QST) A must read.



Our operator Don Mix, known throughout the amateur fraternity as the "sleepless wonder of 1TS" A tall lanky Connecticut Yankee, redheaded and freckle faced and a superhuman performer behind a radio key!

It all began back in 1923 when Commander Donald B. MacMillian, the noted Arctic explorer, was preparing for another of his journeys to the Far North with the Schooner

Bowdoin -WNP- This was to be his ninth expedition, eight times before he had made the long journey above the Arctic Circle and there was nothing he feared more than the isolation, the relentless, inescapable realization of being out off from the civilized world for a year or more.

"It has spelled disaster for many an expedition" MacMillian said.. In 1922 he had carried a radio receiver along, listening to the general traffic of the air. But this was tantalizing rather than useful. What was needed was two-way communication.

About that time Commander MacMillian met Hiram Percy Maxim, President of the ARRL. They talked about his problem and Maxim suggested that radio amateurs would undoubtedly be overjoyed to help. MacMillian was keenly interested, but unfortunately there was no money to provide a radio station aboard the vessel and an operator to run it. Scripted from Calling CQ, chapter four Clinton DeSoto www.qsl.net/ng3p An agreement was worked out, the League offered to help in securing apparatus and to pay the expenses of an amateur operator for the duration of the trip. So it happened that when the MacMillian Arctic Expedition sailed from Wiscasset, ME on June 23, 1923 - aboard the tight little auxiliary schooner Bowdoin, there was hand picked Don Mix WITS, an operator from the A.R.R.L. There was also a complete two hundred meter station donated by CDR E.F. MacDonald of the Zenith Radio Corporation.

Besides standing his watch as a member of the seven-man crew through the months that followed, Mix transmitted a weekly five hundred word message to the North American newspaper Alliance, stood regular watches for incoming press, handled the expedition's personal message traffic and sent back lists of calls of the other amateurs that he heard. Despite the static and aurora borealis, despite the two hundred meter wavelength, despite the handicaps of cramped quarters and insufficient fuel supplies, the expedition was in contact with home until its return in September 1924. "No polar expedition will attempt to go north again without radio equipment," predicted MacMillian on his return and he was right. (As a young ham your author built and enjoyed a 6V6 transmitter Don Mix designed and featured in QST supplement license guides)