

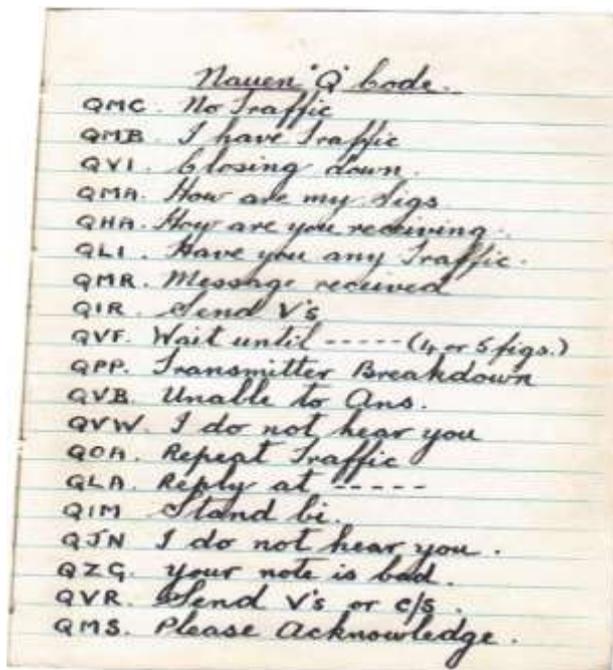
The German & Italian Navy

As well as interception work, the Radio Station also carried out Directional Finding (DF). The station's position made it ideally situated to listen to the German & Italian Navies in the waters of the Northern Hemisphere.



What is DF?

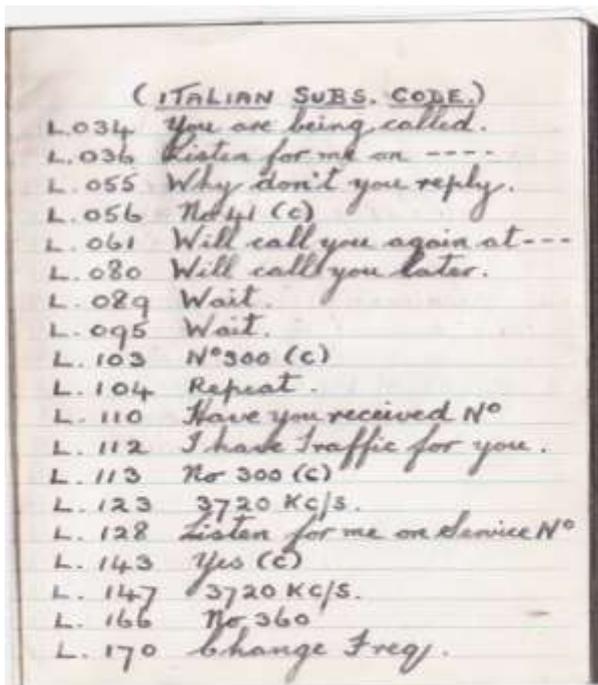
DF is the measurement of the direction from which a received signal was transmitted.



The German Navy used the international radiotelegraph communication Q codes to send and receive Morse signals. All the messages would have been encoded using Enigma.

Nauen is a town near Berlin it was an important transmission site.

This page showing some 'Q' codes taken from a note book used by Harry Griffiths, a DF Operator from the Radio Station. It is the only known surviving book of its kind.



This page showing some 'L' codes taken from a note book used by Harry Griffiths, a DF Operator from the Radio Station.

All the messages would have been encoded using Enigma.

The Italians were not very disciplined in their use of Enigma, Bletchley frequently deciphered their messages.

The Italian Navy had a submarine fleet called 'The Betasom Flotilla'. It operated alongside the German U boats, sailing out of Bordeaux. They were not a particularly successful force.

Post War

Following the end of hostilities, the Radio Station slowly reduced in size. A staff photo of March 1946 still shows some 70 plus personnel at the site. The temporary buildings were removed and took on new leases of life as farm sheds and village halls. The fields reverted to their centuries old seasonal cycle with little evidence of those momentous days when the future of Western Civilisation was on a knife edge.

Germany had been defeated but a new adversary took her place; 'Russia and her Iron Curtain Satellite Allies'. The Cold War had commenced. The station continued with a small staff until the early 1960s, run by GCHQ. (*Government Communication Head Quarters*)

Listening to potential enemies still continues in Cornwall, at Morwenstow, near Bude. Where in partnership with the USA, GCHQ have a large site, on the edge of the cliffs.



GCHQ Morwenstow