
The DX Bulletin

ISSUE 187 APRIL 25, 1983

TWO AMATEURS DEAD IN SPRATLY ATTEMPT; VIET NAM BLAMED

Wednesday, April 20, 1983

THE WORST FEARS of radio amateurs around the world were confirmed today, with official word that two of their fraternity have been killed in the South China Sea. Gero Band, DJ3NG, and Diethelm Mueller, DJ4EI, have perished in an attempt to operate amateur radio from the Spratly Islands. Expedition member Baldur Drobica, DJ6SI, was reportedly wounded in the attack on their sailing vessel. Others on the "Siddhartha," Norbert Willand, DF6FK, owner Peter Marx, and his wife Jenny Toh, were apparently unharmed.

The unarmed Siddhartha, enroute to an unoccupied reef in the Spratly group, was fired upon by Vietnamese from Amboyna Cay, an island only a few hundred meters in diameter, located near the main Spratly island. The Siddhartha sank almost immediately, with Diethelm Mueller already dead of gunshot wounds. The attack occurred on Sunday, April 10, following which the group drifted for ten days in a dinghy.



Amboyna Cay (April, 1979)

Following three unsuccessful air searches for the dinghy, by the Siddhartha's owners, a Maritime Alert was issued to all vessels in the region. On Tuesday, April 19, the Freighter Linden, out of Japan (Panamanian registry) found the dinghy. It had drifted some 350 km from the point of attack near

Amboyna Cay. Gero Band, DJ3NG, succumbed on April 17, aboard the dinghy, reportedly of starvation. The Linden was due to land in Hong Kong with the survivors on April 22.

The Associated Press news service carried a story on the situation April 15, but it was picked up by very few newspapers in the U.S. Their sources, Philippine amateur operator Klaus Ziller, and German Embassy (Manila) first secretary Jorg Zimmerman, gave the same story as reported in TDXB Issue 186 (April 18). Zimmerman stated that West Germany had "notified all five governments of a radio transmission Sunday (Apr 10) that said the Siddhartha had been attacked and ended with a man's voice yelling 'Fire on board! Fire on board.'" The AP also attributed the stepped-up search for the Siddhartha to distress signals heard on the amateur 20-Meter band on Thursday, April 14.

According to the AP story, Vietnam "first wanted assurances the boat did not carry a political group, and then promised not to interfere with the rescue attempt." There is no indication of why the Vietnamese on Amboyna Cay did not rescue the survivors themselves. Very late word to TDXB indicates that the Vietnamese shelling was extensive, as all six persons aboard the Siddhartha were injured to some extent. They were cast adrift with neither food nor water.

Finally, as for the future DXCC status of Spratly and associated islands in the South China Sea, there has been talk for some time of not counting (for Spratly credit) the associated islands which are controlled by countries other than Viet Nam (which controls Spratly). It is expected that this talk will continue, at a stepped-up pace.

POSTSCRIPT: an AP wire story came in at 1517Z April 20. Please send TDXB a copy if your local newspaper carries it.

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The DX Bulletin (ISSN 0279-8077) is published weekly fifty times per year at the following rates: 48 contiguous states \$28 per year (\$35 per year optional first class mail); Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, APO, and FPO boxes, \$35 per year; all others \$50 per year (airmail). The DX Bulletin is published at 306 Vernon Avenue, Vernon CT 06066. Second-class postage paid at Vernon, CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The DX Bulletin, P.O. Box 873, Vernon, CT. 06066

4 rescued from sea

HONG KONG (AP) — A freighter rescued four wounded people from a dinghy in the South China Sea, 10 days after they radioed that their yacht was attacked, the freighter's captain said today.

Two West Germans who also had been aboard the yacht died, according to captain, who said one was killed during the attack and the other died later from wounds.

"They drifted for 10 days without food and water and they were very weak and dehydrated," the captain of the freighter Linden said in a radio-telephone interview from Hong Kong. "They are sleeping and they need rest."

Capt. Tadashi Inose said the survivors, three West Germans and a Singaporean, were in "not too serious condition" aboard the Panamanian-registered freighter which picked them up midway between Vietnam and Borneo just before sunset Tuesday. The Linden was en route from Saudi Arabia to Hong Kong, where it was scheduled to arrive Friday.

Inose said the survivors told him the two other West Germans aboard the yacht Siddhartha died as a result of an attack near Amboyna Cay, one of the Spratly Islands, on April 10. They were believed to be Gero Band and Diethelm Muller, who were aboard the yacht when it left Singapore April 9, but who were not among the survivors.

The captain identified the survivors as the yacht's captain, Peter Marx; his Singaporean wife, Jenny Toh Swee Neo; Balour Drobnica; and Norbert Willaud.

PROPAGATION: Apr 24, 25, Below Normal; Apr 26, 27, Low Normal; Apr 28 - May 2, Low Normal; May 3, 4, Below Normal; May 5, Disturbed; May 6-9, Low Normal; May 10, 11, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Date	Flux (83)	Alpha (83)	K (83)
258	157	4/14	111	27	4
257	151	4/15	103	31	4
248	147	4/16	104	24	4
241	147	4/17	113	17	3
227	146	4/18	120	11	3
215	144	4/19	124	11	2



SPRATLY 1979

CHINA: In Issue 185 it was mentioned that the People's Republic of China has cancelled "cultural exchange" programs with the United States for the rest of 1983, in retaliation for the U.S.'s granting of political asylum to woman tennis player Hu Na. We have now learned that the All China Sports Federation has also announced that "PRC contestants would not participate in any sports activities in the U.S. in 1983." As amateur radio is considered a "sport," it is now questionable whether BY1PK and BY8AA will be affected. Neither station has been reported on the bands since March 30, and the output of QSLs from them has dropped off to nearly nothing the past few weeks.

HEARD ISLAND: Jim Smith, VK9NS, leader of the VKØJS operation, phoned TDXB on April 20, to advise he was leaving for the U.S. He will be at both the Visalia and Dayton Conventions, to refute charges of the VK6 DX Chasers (VKØHI). Those charges were published in TDXB # 183.

QSL cards from Smith's group have been hitting the mails for several weeks now. No QSLs have come from the VKØHI/VKØCW operation, and neither the IDXF nor the NCDXF has published a newsletter or press release since the February Heard Island operation which they co-sponsored.

SPEAKING OF VISALIA and the "International DX Convention" this weekend, here's a final round-up of attendees: Martti Laine, OH2BH (OHØW contest report); Tom Taormina, K5RC (on big contest stations); Jay O'Brien, W6GO (co-publisher of the W6GO/K6HHD QSL List); JALBK (on his BY1PK visit); Al Fischer, K8CW/VKØCW (Heard Island 1983); Jim Smith, VK9NS/VKØJS (also Heard Island 1983); Eric Sjolund, SMØAGD (1982 Pacific expedition); Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL (YASME Africa/Asia 1982-83, see TDXB 186); Phil Weaver, VS6CT (Hong Kong/Macao Pictorial Essay); plus the usual ARRL and club dignitaries. TDXB will be there in spirit!

Pictured above are K4SMX, K1MM, and VK2BJL, on a reef just a few miles from Spratly's Amboyna Cay, in April, 1979. They had approached Amboyna Cay a few days earlier (see photo page one), been fired at, and they returned to the mainland to reconnoiter. At that point, team members N200 and N4WW decided not to return for another try. The three remaining team members set out on VK2BJL's yacht, the "Banyanda," and subsequently operated for about three days from the reef.

K4YT Report

Indonesia, April 10

WAS ON from 9N1MM a few weeks ago but propagation was lousy. I did work many Europeans on 40 Meters. Was all set to work the CQ WPX (SSB) from 4S7EA's house but the Ministry of Defense rejected my request for a call.

I went to a meeting of the radio club in Bangkok, and got a feel for the politics involved in the recent silencing of HS amateur stations. They should be on the air again soon. The club has asked to be allowed to sign HSØHS in the All Asia Contest in June. (Ed Note: TDXB reported earlier that HS stations had been ordered off the air around the time of Thailand's general elections).

Here in Indonesia, I've been operating from the station of YBØACP (K6DLV). Phil will take skeds for 40/80 Meters if you ask him on 20. He's also trying to get the government to drop the "resident i.d. requirement" for a YBØ call. You'll know he was successful when you hear K4YT/YBØ.

Next stops Singapore (ended 4/21), then DUL 4/21-4/26, Hong Kong until 4/27, and on into China. And I'm scheduled back in Africa this summer.

THE W6GO/K6HHD LIST
PO BOX 700
R10 LINDA, CA 95673

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BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Central, East Coast report)/Date

EA4LH/	JAlCGM 3505 11E 12	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5T5RY 14206 01C 15
CE3 21275 00E 17	JT1AO 14226 03W 16	UI8OK 7001 00E 15	5W1EB 14202 03E 14
CEØZAD 21345 00E 10	KC6IN 14211 13C 11	VK9ND 14202 12E 15	5W1EB 14211 12E 14
CEØERY 14209 03E 13	(E. Carolines)	VK9NS 14218 12E 16	5Z4DR 21030 19E 14
CN8BK 14031 00E 16	KHØAC 14225 03W 16	VQ9CI 14205 12C 11	5Z4DR 14029 23E 15
CN8MT 28552 14E 17	PAØATA/	VS5HG 14213 15W 16	5Z4DR 21291 19E 17
CT3DJ 14034 23E 10	LX 14024 14E 10	VU2UGI 14225 04W 17	6W8FZ 14216 22C 14
CT3CP 14019 22E 13	LX1DA 21032 16W 10	VU2UGI 14202 12E 18	7X2LS 21355 19E 10
CT3DJ 7011 01E 15	MLX 7007 00E 10	YB3CD 14213 15W 16	8Q7AV 14209 12C 12
EA8JE 28052 14E 17	OD5NT 14215 01E 12	ZC4BI 14022 21E 9	9H4P 21076 13E 13
EA8AER 14016 10E 18	OHØPA 14016 14E 16	ZD7BW 21276 21W 16	9J2LL 14035 21E 10
EA9JG 28046 16E 10	OY2J 14026 23E 10	ZK1CG 21345 00E 10	9J2BO 21026 19C 13
EA9GK 14019 00E 13	OY7ML 14027 15E 10	ZK1DX 14004 03E 13	9V1VP 14008 12E 9
EL2AD 21315 12E 13	OX5JM 14015 15E 10	ZLIANJ 28520 14E 17	9V1TL 14018 11E 9
FB8WI 14019 13E 15	PJ8II 14024 19C 13	ZP5CD 28023 22E 9	
FB8WI 14013 13C 16	PZ9AB 14007 22E 10	ZP5CPE 28573 13E 17	Mail reports to
FB8WI 14026 13E 18	PZ1DV 14020 11E 15	3B8CF 3505 03E 10	reach Vernon by
FB8ZP 14217 13E 10	PZ1DV 7003 09E 20	3B8CF 7005 03E 10	Wednesday, or phone
FB8ZQ 14214 13E 15	G4ABI/	3B8FK 14034 03E 12	
FB8ZQ 14013 02E 18	ST2 21016 21E 16	3B8FG 14027 03E 13	203-871-7699 anytime.
FC8TT 7003 03E 10	TL8GE 14202 03E 13	3B8CF 14241 12C 16	
FM7WU 3506 00E 10	TR8DR 21025 22C 10	3B9DA 14209 12C 11	Best contributor of
FO8GM 14011 11E 15	TR8JLD 21072 13E 13	3B9DA 14208 13C 16	information each
FR7BP 21031 14E 10	TU2JL 14238 04E 13	4K1B 14023 03E 13	month wins a <u>free</u>
GU2FMF 14028 11E 12	UF6FFF 14019 15E 10	4S7EA 14210 12E 12	year of <u>TDXB!</u>
HKØBKX 14025 13E 13	UG6GDS 14019 22E 9	4S7EA 14216 12E 18	
HKØBKX 14017 12E 17	UL7JCX 14026 03E 10	5B4MN 3505 00E 10	
HL9TH 14230 14W 17	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5H3BC 14227 14E 10	

<u>DX CALL</u>	<u>QSL TO</u>	K3UOC/PJ5	K3UOC	XE2EBE	AA6DP
A35XX	DJØFX	K3UOC/PJ6	K3UOC	XFØMDX	XE1MDX
A71BJ	G4HNP	K4LTA/V2A	K4LTA	XO7EOQ	VE7DLO
BY8AA	BY1PK	K7NHV/VP2V	K7NHV	XT2AW	KN1DPS
CEØAE	WA3HUP	NP4A	W3HNK	XT2BM	WD4RHL
CN8CO	WB3KGY	NØZO/DU2	KØLST	YB5AES	W4BBP
CN8CX	K4CEB	OD5LX	SMØDJZ	ZB2EO	K3MNW
CP6EL	WB1DQC	ON5UM/LX	ON5UM	ZD7CW	N4CID
CR1CBU	CT1CBU	PYØZSD	DA2ZH	ZD8DX	W4MJZ
CR9FE	KL7IHP	PYØZSF	DA2ZH	ZD9BZ	KALDE
CR9Z	NOT:JA1ELY	PYØZSG	DK9KX	ZF2GT	WAØKNF
CX7BY	WØIJN	TJ1GH	DJ5RT	ZF2GV	W2HPF
C31NP	EA3BNX	TR8JD	F6AJA	ZL1AMO/C	ZL1AMO
DL1JW/HP1	DL1KB	TU2HJ	W3HNK	Z21GN	NY4X
EA8ZI	SM5IWC	TU2LS	K3GYD	3B9DA	3B8DA
EA9KF	EA9IE	T3ØAT	G3XZF	3D6AK	G3WPF
EW2A	UK2AAB	T32AB	N7YL	4K1D	UAIAPM
FB8ZP	F6KNO	UA1PAO	UK1OAA	4N9WG	YU4GYZ
FB8ZQ	F6GXB	VE1CBK/1	VE1AJH	5H3BH	SMØEAI
FMØHOR	K6YRA	VK2WU	WA2BFW	5Z4MX	SM3CXS
HC8GI	W3HNK	VK9YB	KB9UV	5Z4WL	DL3WL
HH2VP	W1FJ	VK9YC	KB9UV	6Y5IC	G3XTJ
HI8RAU	WB2LCH	VP2EH	KC5EA	7X4AN	DJ2BW
HZ1AB	K8PYD	VP2ES	K8CV	9J2BO	W6ORD
IO2PJA	I2PJA	VP2KBD	K1IJV	9J2TY	JH3DPB
JT1AN	W7PHO	VP2KBE	K1IJV	9K2BE	G4GIR
JT1BG	W7PHO	VP2M	WB2LCH	9K2QL	YASME
J28AZ	I8JN	VP2MKD	NØDH	9M6YY	K5YY
J6LT	NOT:WB2LCH	VP2MM	AB1U	9Q5JE	DJ5TY
J73DF	N4CRU	VP2VCN	KP4EBQ	9Y4RD/STØ	KA2DDJ
KC6IN	JA6BSM	VP2VGI	KP4EBQ		
KC6SZ	JA6BSM	VP5ARX	W8UVZ	<u>DX CALL</u>	<u>QTH INFORMATION</u>
KC7UU/5N6	K6EDV	VP5FX	K4UEE	A92P	P.O. Box 14, Manama, Bahrain
KJ8G/J6L	KJ8G	VP5LDX	WB8LDH	BV2B	Box 3Ø-547, Taipei, Taiwan
KJ8G/8P6	KJ8G	VP8AQU	KØJW	CM2NT	PO Box 3Ø12, Havana 3, Cuba
KP4AM	W7PHO	VP9AD	W3HNK	CT3DJ	Box 742, Funchal
KR4C/V2A	KR4C	VQ9CI	KE4OC	D44BC	POB 36, Mindelo, Cape Verde
KX6OA	K6DSI	VS5YY	K5YY	EL2P	Box 1929, Monrovia
KØTT/KHØ	KØTT	VS6DO	K4CIA	FM7CL	PO Box 1119, Fort de France 972Ø9
K1BJ/3B8	K1BJ	V2AXA	K4LTA	FY7CH	Box 642, Cayenne
K1BJ/3B9	K1BJ	W6YB/3D6	KB7VD	HR1RCT	Box 149/C, Tegucigalpa
				HT1JCC	Jose, Box C89, Managua
				PZ1DV	POB 9ØØ6, Paramaribo
				TT8AD	Box 815, N'Djamena
				TU2JL	Box 13Ø9, Abidjan Ø1

CALENDAR

China	No BY1PK/BY8AA since Mar 30
Trindade	PY1EFM/PYØT still on; Issues 180, 181
Rodrigues	3B9DA now says will be active until June
Crozet	FB8WI almost every day, 14020, 1300Z
Eq Guinea	Still looking for F6BBJ/3C1 anytime
Ogasawara	By KC2HQ, JR1YGP, end of April
Hamvention	Dayton, last weekend of April
Macao	CR9T by WA4IKZ, May 2-8; I 181
W6AM	Visitor's Day June 16

FINAL NOTE: You will probably receive your 1983 TDXB Countries-Needed Survey sheet with next week's issue. It will come in an envelope, and be sure to take a look at the envelope, because we plan to put the month/year your subscription expires on the envelope somewhere. At that time we will be suggesting you consider sending a check for another year, to save us the expense of some renewal notices.

CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE NOTE: TDXB has received twenty-two phone calls on Apr 20 alone; if we do not list your callsign below, it is entirely unintentional, and we apologize.

KA1BU, KH6BZF, K6HHD, K4YT,
K3ZO, K1ZZ, W3AZD, W1HZ, K1JX,
WB1AVA, K4SMX, AB8K, WØBW, K6IR,
K3MRT, W7HRD, K1NH, K8EM, K1XM,
WD5AAM, KA1BE, XE1NI, WØJRN,
W4VQ, WB8ZRL, W1DQH, K4CEF,
K4BAI, WD8QVD, WB4LFM, W6HXW,
WØYDB

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Second Class
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at Vernon, CT

(ISSN 0279-8077)
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