


Foxhole radio backpack

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John Nisel in early 1945, in Italy's North Appenine Mountains, T/5 Harvey, a radio host with the 10th Mountain Division, is carrying his SCR-300 to battle for the first time. His company is part of the promotion of the 10th, the only division of the U.S. Army that was actively preparing for a mountain war. The goal of the 10th is to push the Germans away from the mountainous height they held for months, despite repeated, persistent attempts by the Americans and the British to take the heights. But the mountain paratroopers on the 10th with this task. Harvey is slowly moving forward with his company commander, tracking the airwaves for any incoming broadcasts. He and his fellow GIs are at the point of attack in their sector, and soon they are fleeing to the German main resistance line. Heavy gunfire breaks out right in front of the Americans, and Harvey hits the deck along with other mountain soldiers. I could hear bullets whistling over my back and smacking in the mud around me, he recalls. So Harvey keeps his head down and the radio in the contact report. His company quickly organizes and begins to bring a steady return fire to carry in the direction of German positions. After a while, the enemy fire subsides, and the paratroopers continue the offensive. But soon the German rifle of Harvey's firepower hit the ground again- with 35 pounds of radio strapped to his back. He transmits another contact report while, and once again, enemy bullets buzz close above his head and hit the ground around him. The same scenario is repeated many times over the next few days, and Harvey continues to beat the dirt, the SCR-300 pounding his back, bullets still flying close over his head and smacking into the ground around him, while the radio antenna wags back and forth. A drawing from the SCR-300 technical manual shows the unit in action. After a week of this, he treats with a wry smile: I suddenly realized that whenever we came under heavy fire and hit the ground, most of the other guys around me didn't take any direct fire at all when I had bullets flying all around me. Then it hit me -- it was the radio antenna that attracted the German fire rifle! To maintain a good reception I had to keep the antenna upright, which was easy to do because it had a flexible mount. Whenever I lay prone on the ground, I would swing the antenna vertical. So here I am, my face is in the mud, and there's an antenna poking around, dancing around and drawing all the attention to me. After the shooting stopped, I turned to the captain and told him I didn't want to wear the radio anymore - I was tired of being shot at! One of them was to send a messenger or runner who risked being killed, wounded, lost or captured. The other was a field phone. But it depended on the wire. When strung along bushes and trees, or most likely just laid on the ground, boots, tires, tank protectors, and exploding ammunition were easily damaged. GIs U.S. Army Signal Corps and U.S. Marine Corps spent a lot of time searching and repairing line breaks. All the while, messages don't get through if sent to a runner, jeep, etc. Effectively though it was, the field phone just wasn't portable enough to get out with troops at any point. However, as is often the case in peace and war, technology has come to the rescue with an innovative, game-changing invention: wireless better known as radio. The vacuum tube made radio possible. These zinc electronic devices in glass form were a precursor to the modern transistor. With the design, which was perfected in the early 20th century, vacuum tubes were getting smaller and more reliable. By 1940 they were reliable, compact design (the size of a small bottle of tablet), and could be sturdy enough to withstand shock, vibration, heat, cold, and wet. With these attributes in mind, the U.S. Army Signal Corps have begun to develop a program to develop the Walkie-Talkie - a portable AM frequency radio that can be held on a soldier's back. Previous attempts to design portable radio were made in the late 1930s and early 1940s, with some success achieved with the SCR (Signal Corps Radio) 194 and 195 backpack radios, but they were cumbersome and heavy, and were tweaking and reliability issues. Another radio that took it into operational status was the SCR-511, which was released to the troops in 1942. The 511, with its longest-like staff antenna that was divided into a coffee can-sized transceiver, was nicknamed the Pogo Stick. Designed to use a holgoma, it was obsolete by the time America entered World War II, but saw the service nonetheless. Galvin Manufacturing Radio Corporation FM In 1940, Galvin Manufacturing Corporation-producer of Motorola products -developed the Handie-Talkie SCR-536 portable twin-fiber AM radio, which will see widespread use in the coming war. But with an effective range of just a quarter of a mile, the SCR-536 was not powerful enough to link the advancing troops and the company/battalion headquarters further from the front line. It was also not manually configured to other frequencies or channels, thereby limiting its usefulness. A new radio is needed that can be reliably longer-range, but portable enough not to be too onerous for the soldier carrying it. As mentioned earlier, the original design parameters of the Signal Corps were for the radio, which will run on the am (Amplitude Modulation) strip. However, one of Galvin's engineers, Daniel Noble, was sold on the benefits of the FM (Modulation Frequency) design for a clear, non-interference radio communication. He met with Corps of Signals and convinced them of the superiority of FM technology for radio. In another image from the Technical Guide, the device is displayed in a lighter weight configuration using only the necessary components. Noble's confidence in the viability of the concept and in Galvin's ability to produce such radio is exercised day. Although various sources give different dates when these initial design discussions occurred, in 1942 the Signal Corps issued Galvin Manufacturing a contract to develop a portable receiver transmitter using the FM range. It was a priority project, and Galvin immediately began the project work. Daniel Noble's SCR-300 was tasked with assembling a project team. He was joined by Marion Bond, Henrik Magnuski, Lloyd Morris and Bill Vogel. The signal corps stipulated that the radio, designated SCR-300, should be battery-powered and, weighing no more than 35 pounds, be portable enough to be carried on the soldier's back. The transmitter and receiver will use the FM range of 40.0 to 48.0 megacycles divided into 200 MHz segments to give a total of 41 channels. It indicated an operational distance of three miles with appropriate noise-cancelling schemes to facilitate clear reception. Finally, since the device was intended for long-term outdoor use in all types of weather conditions, the radio was to be resistant to entering the water. Noble told the men that the Signal Corps has prioritized life and death in this infantry program. The SCR-300 team took their responsibility to heart, and by the spring of 1942 they had two prototypes ready for consideration. After successful radio testing eight miles apart (more than twice the distance called in the original specifications), the units were demonstrated to the Signals Corps. They were so impressed that the program was given the opportunity to continue. Further development and testing led to the production of radio, BC-1000. This device, combined with all the necessary accessories, consisted of radio SCR-300 Walkie-Talkie. For the Army's final acceptance test, Galvin produced a version of the SCR-300 headed to the home of the U.S. Army Armored School in Fort Knox, Kentucky. There, in the woods and fields, the device was delivered through its paces, with tests and tests designed to test performance performance, durability, and overall quality and usability of radio use. As the results showed at the end of the day, Daniel Noble's design team developed a winner who met or exceeded the specifications set out in the original Signal Corps parameters. Full-scale production was commanded after the completion of the acceptance test, followed by the delivery of operational units to the army in order to write the necessary technical guidance, which will accompany each SCR-300 issued This guide, entitled TM 11-242 RADIO SET SKR-300-A, details the correct setting, operation and troubleshooting of BC-1000 radio and accessories. An An The SCR-300 was nevertheless quite simple and easy to use to use the system originally assigned to the GI, which completed the necessary radio courses. Thus, the device can be controlled by almost anyone after a brief introduction regarding customization, transmission and receipt. After powering, a vacuum tube required a 10-minute warm-up period, then the device was ready to go. Choose a channel with a tuning dial, adjust the squelch handle (to reduce background noise or roar that occurs when the radio is not transmitted or receives), and just press the butterfly switch button on your phone to transmit, release the switch to receive (as the SCR-300 had a radio, it could not transmit and receive simultaneously), and that was all that was required for the main work. Phone-like phone TS-15-A. Notice the butterfly switch, which activated the transmission circuit when turning in any direction. One of the main reasons for the ease of using the SCR-300 is that the Noble team has developed a radio-mentioned BC-1000 unit with an electronic circuit called Automatic Frequency Control, which will automatically complement the radio to match the frequency of the incoming signal. This scheme allowed outgoing transmissions from BC-1000 to be sent at exactly the same frequency, denying the need for separate tuning controls for transmission. It was a simple concept, perhaps, but an important feature that made radio easy to use by those who might have to manage the unit if the radio host was injured or killed. One of the hallmarks of a successful design is the ease of use, and how Galvin will end up producing nearly 50,000 SCR-300s- many of which remained in use and in the 1950s the success of radio design was clearly proven. Combat debut in Italy As the Allies completed their campaign in Sicily in August 1943, operational planning for the impending invasion of Italy is in its final stages. The link between SNAFU throughout the North African and Sicilian campaigns has served to reinforce the immediate need for more effective portable communications. Because of this need, and since there are currently enough units to deploy, Galvin's SCR-300 will be scheduled to make its combat debut during the invasion of southern Italy. In fact, new radio radios were brought into the operation by such importance that they were airlifted to the invasion bases. Alternative shipments by cargo ship were considered too slow, and many times urgently needed items were lost in the huge cargo holds of hundreds of Allied ships plying the Atlantic. Consequently, the designation of precious air transport space to deliver radios ensures that they will be in the hands of those who will desperately need them once the bullets have started to fly. Harness to the radio unit BC-1000, captured on Mid West Duck and Canvas Co 1943. Notice the thick felt pads that have been slipped over the shoulder straps. Felt Felt shouldered, significantly improving the comfort of the harness. Deployed mainly to facilitate timely communication between infantry companies and battalion headquarters, the SCR-300 was also often used by forward observers who would notice the fall of artillery shells and then, if necessary, quickly radio back aimed at adjustments. The practical usefulness of the units and the reliability of the solid design of the radio quickly became apparent after the GIs made their way ashore in Italy. The U.S. Army still had many teething problems in 1943, when fighting the axis and instant communication provided by the new radio stations was a godsend for front-line soldiers and commanders. When there was an immediate need for reserve troops or concentrated artillery fire, the SCR-300 was worth its weight in gold. The SCR-300 in European and Pacific theaters As the production of the SCR-300 continued, radios were issued to other units and branches of the U.S. military besides infantry. Airborne troops, Marines and U.S. Navy received radios for their own use. By the time of the invasions to the north and south of France in June and August 1944, Galvin Walkie-Talkie played a prominent role in communication in the European theater of war, as was also the case with the Marines and Army units that are conducting the island hopping campaign against imperial Forces of Japan in the Pacific. Men of the 1st U.S. Army use Walkie-Talkie at a crossroads in Germany. The new SCR-300 radio allowed better communication over long distances, allowing frontline troops to talk to their headquarters a few miles from the rear. The use of the SCR-300 and any other electronic device in this regard, in the heat and humidity experienced by the Pacific Theatre, required fungicide treatment if the equipment was expected to function reliably. Galvin used a fungus-prevention process that applied a protective layer of varnish on the entire collected board. This coating, along with the rubber rumblings that sealed the hull sections, was effective in preventing moisture-induced damage to electronic components. The problematic battery SCR-300 As indispensable as the SCR-300 has proven itself in the field, one of the inherent characteristics of a portable radio can render the device useless: battery life, or, more specifically, the inaccessibility of spare batteries. This can turn the radio into no more than 35 pounds of dead weight on the back of an infantryman. To minimize the possibility of such scenarios, the Army and Marines have made spare batteries a priority for supplies similar in importance to ammunition and rations. One radio host who was interviewed for this article came ashore in the south of France with the 103rd Division in the fall of 1944. He recalls several problems with getting batteries replaced for seven months in combat. From the port of Marseille to Brenner in southern Austria, Austria, doesn't remember having to go any long amount of time with a dead battery. The SCR-300 multivolt batteries, available in two sizes, were more complex than a single-voltage jeep or truck battery. The 15-pound BA-70, which has a lifespan of 20 to 25 hours, was the first SCR-300 battery produced. He was later followed by a lighter weight (9 pounds) BA-80, which had a lifespan of 12 to 15 hours. There were three groups of powertrains inside both batteries, with each group supplying different voltages. The 41/2-volt group fed the fila being 18 vacuum tubes, while the 90-volt group powered the receiver plate. The power of the third group of 60 volts was combined with the 90-volt receiver cells to provide the 150 volt required by the transmitter plate. With the existing battery technology of the day, such a diverse supply of power requires a large physical package. As a result, two-thirds of the SCR-300 unit was occupied by a battery that connected to the BC-1000 receiver/transmitter through a thick seven-ton cable. The inclusion of heavy components such as cable, rubber rumbling between sections of the hull, seal covers over the headset, phone and relay connectors; A sturdy steel outer hull; and the compact but sturdy design of the board played a big role in the strength of the radio, the advantages of which were tested first-hand by front-line troops. A priceless Walkie-Talkie of World War II, SCR-300 radios distinguished themselves in combat conditions in hot weather and cold, humid and dry. Battalion and company commanders finally had a reliable radio radio that was truly portable, allowing for instant communication about urgent tactical needs and actions. Forward observers were able to quickly summon significant U.S. Army artillery, quickly and often making adjustments with devastating consequences for enemy infantry and armor. The Marines, battling in the jungle and the Pacific Islands, were able to coordinate with the Marine Armor with the help of Walkie-Talkie, bringing much-needed heavy, close firepower to carry on Japanese pills, caves and strong points. BC-1000 transmitter/receiver control panel with hinged cover. And, of course, the unspeakable number of american and allied lives was saved by the timely and accurate communication allowed by the Galvin Manufacturing Corporation radio. The U.S. Army made such a significant impact on the development of radio that they awarded Daniel Noble a Certificate of Merit for his role in the design and production of Walkie-Talkie. Due to its reliability, rugged design and ease of use, by the end of the war Daniel Noble's design was widely used in combat with the Marines, Army Infantry and Airborne Troops, Air Force and Navy. Portable in theory, and portable when commissioned, Galvin Manufacturing Corporation was perhaps one of the most useful elements provided, provided American servicemen during World War II though that dancing antenna may have brought some more enemy lightning bullets lightning over the radio host's head! n n

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