

1959

On June 14 at Longleat, the magnificent and very beautiful parkland home of the Marquis of Bath, there was an estimated attendance of 600, arriving in 143 vehicles of all shapes, sizes and vintages, 65 of them fitted /M. The areas represented by visitors were Cambs., Devon, Dorset, Derbys., Hants., Lancs., Wilts and Warwickshire. Talk-in was by G3CHW/A on 1900 kc and G3FKO/A on 145 mc.

### West of England Mobile Rally

Under perfect weather conditions for the third successive year the West of England Mobile Rally was held on June 26 in ideal surroundings on the Longleat Estate in Wiltshire, the home of the Marquis

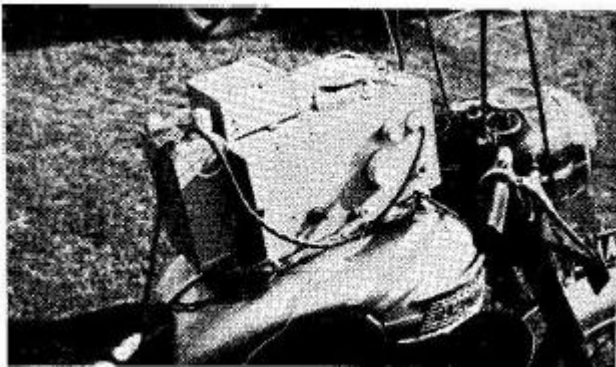


of Bath. Organised by the Bristol Group under the chairmanship of G2FYT (who also acted as M.C.) this year's Rally attracted a record attendance and over 150 cars finally assembled in the car park beside the lake. The total attendance was estimated at well in excess of 500 and altogether about 135 licensed amateurs signed the attendance book; the visitors included ZS5QV from Durban.

G3CHW/A and G3FKO/A, the Top Band and two-metre control stations, were kept busy from 10 a.m. and with the majority equipped for 160m. operation, 48 mobiles in all were contacted by G3CHW/A whilst *en route* to Longleat. About 12 mobiles were worked by G3FKO/A on two metres.

The usual side-shows included a free draw, ladies' raffle and treasure hunt, with the added attraction this year of a DX balloon race! Although this report is being written before the closing date for the return of the tags, it can already be announced that at least two balloons have been found in France, so "propagation" conditions must have been quite favourable!

Lord Bath, accompanied by the Marchioness, presented the various prizes in person to the winners. He also presented the certificates which were awarded to the successful mobiles in the various competitions, including the *Concours d'Elegance*, won by G6IF/M



Seen at West of England Mobile Rally at Longleat — a mobile rig mounted on the tank of a Triumph motor-cycle.

with a magnificently-equipped Vauxhall Victor; the longest distance mobile-to-control contact on 160m, which went to G3ABU/M; the best mobile-to-control contact on two metres, won by G3HGE/M; and the mobile recording the highest field-strength reading on 160m, who was G6NW/M. The certificate for the mobile travelling the greatest distance to and from home on the day of the Rally was easily won by G3KCJ/M from Takely, Essex, who "clocked" well over 300 miles on the round trip. Special souvenirs of the event were produced by G6YA in the form of unique self-adhesive windscreen stickers of attractive design, which proved very popular.



The Marquis of Bath, accompanied by the Marchioness, presenting the prizes at the West of England Mobile Rally.

**West of England Mobile Rally**

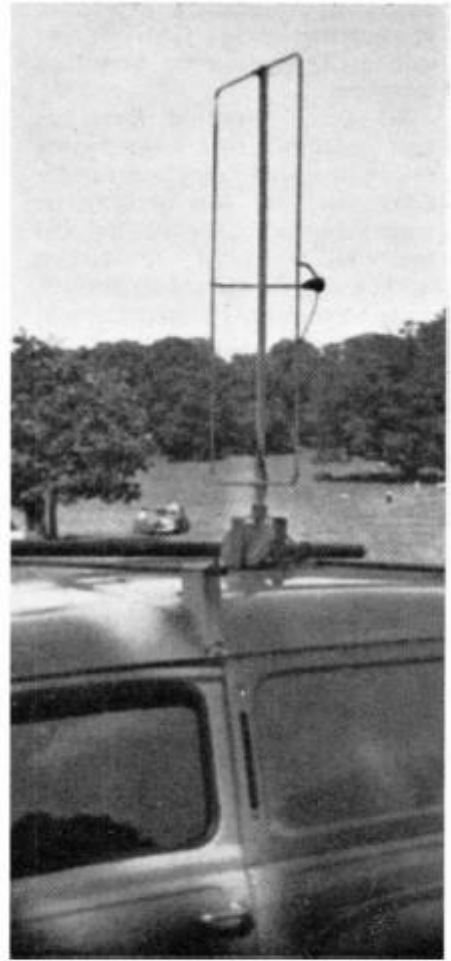
Held at Longleat on June 25 in fine, hot weather, this popular event drew an attendance of about 500, of the same order as last year, which satisfied the organisers. Some 50 cars in the park were actually fitted mobile, 70% of them for Top Band. The talk-in stations were G3CHW/A on 160m. and G3GYQ/A on VHF; the longest-distance contact with the 1.8 mc control was made by G2CDN/M (London), who also recorded the highest field strength from a fixed point; the best DX contact made with control on two metres was by G3NAE/M (Bournemouth). The prize for the longest distance travelled to and from home on the day of the Rally went to G3LSF, of

Southport, Lancs.—he deserved it! In the *concours d'elegance*, the prize was awarded to G3IVP/M, who runs, not a car, but a smart 500 c.c. Matchless solo motor-cycle, on which he carries an *SSB rig* for 1.8/3.5 mc, and mainly transistorised at that; the (valve) PA runs 8w. and control of the equipment is by flick-switch on the handle-bar, with a throat microphone and single ear-piece under the helmet. This is a very ingenious and well thought-out installation, and it should also be noted that G3IVP/M's award was gained with the judges paying particular attention to the factor of safety in all rigs inspected.

*Rally pictures from Longleat, Barford and Bridlington*



This neat 160m. transceiver, by G3OUK/M of Bristol, fitted in an Austin A.30, won first prize for elegance at the Longleat Mobile Rally. *A G3GMN print*



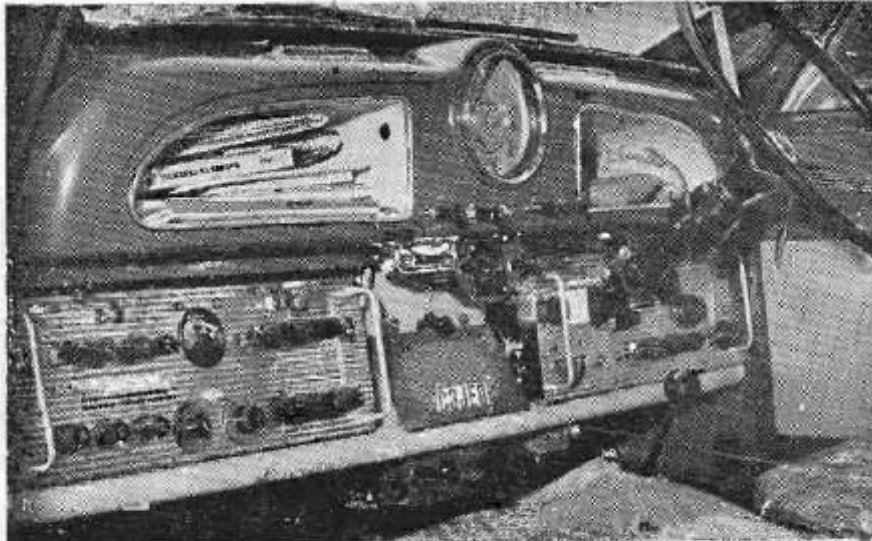
**G3OBD** came up to the Longleat Rally on June 17 from Poole, Dorset. He has a single-slot aerial for two metres, rotatable from within the vehicle, together with a short telescopic mast — seen stowed along the roof-line of the van — on which the slot can be mounted for /P work. **G3OBD** is not well located for VHF at the home QTH and so does much operating under /M and /P conditions.

1963



General view of the car park at the West of England Mobile Rally, Longleat House, Warminster, Wilts., on June 30. In a clearing afternoon, they had about 400 visitors, and of the 200 or so vehicles in the park, one hundred were fitted mobile. The setting for this Rally is particularly attractive, and Longleat itself is a magnificent house.

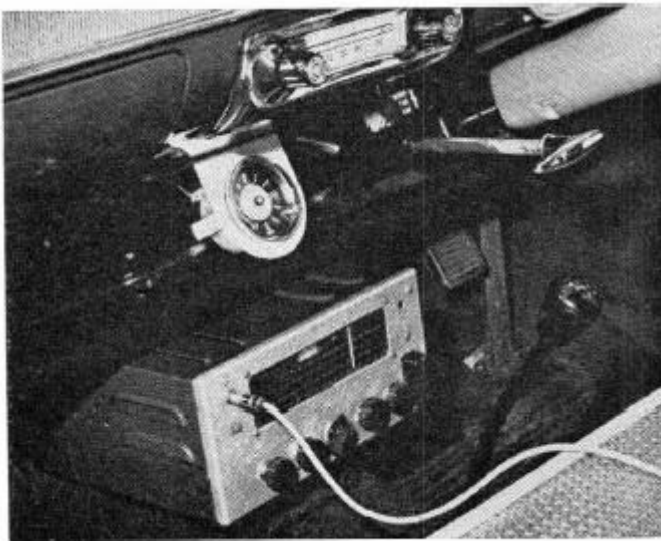
For the West of England Mobile Rally at Longleat on June 30, though the weather was threatening, the attendance was nevertheless about the same as last year (some 400 people), and there were 100 vehicles fitted mobile; the talk-in station, signing G3JMY/A, worked 38 of them, all on Top Band. G3JEQ/M (that man again!) of Leatherhead, Sy., was awarded the prize for the best installation, and G2CDN/M took it for the longest-distance contact with control, at 32 miles when located at Weston-s-Mare. G3OMO/M made the longest journey of the day—he came down from Hull. Overseas visitors included F2BO, LA5HE, ZS1XM and 5B4WD. The raffle went off very well and the report is that “many more tickets could have been sold.” Everything for sale was disposed of, and altogether the Bristol group feel that this Rally was possibly the best yet held at Longleat. The Marquis of Bath, owner of the property, made his customary personal appearance and presented the prizes. Those responsible for the Longleat organisation this year included G3CHW, G3JMY and G4UZ, with other members of the Bristol group.



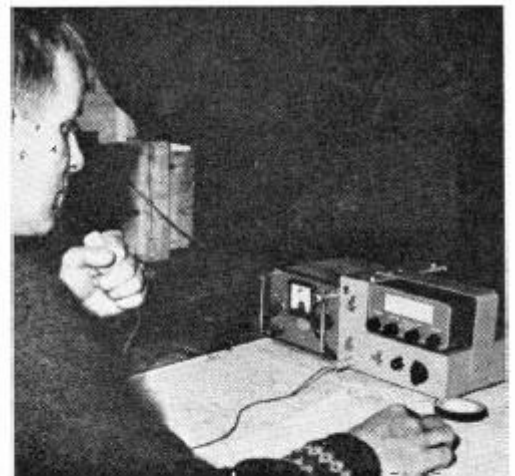
Close-up of the G3JEQ mobile installation for 160-80-40m. and two metres, as fitted in the parcel space of a Morris Traveller, with the shelf lowered slightly to accommodate the panel depth. The Tx side is on the left, and the right-hand panel carries the LF-band Rx, incorporating a transistorised converter for two metres. Control switches are at centre, and the speaker is in front of the heater element. This is a very fine example of home-constructed gear for mobile working, on several bands, and G3JEQ (Great Bookham, Surrey) has been a winner at several Rallies this year. The photograph was taken at Longleat by G3GMN.

(A) The box shown here is an ingenious self-contained two-band transceiver, for operation on either 2m. or 160m., fitted in a Vauxhall Victor. Seen at the Longleat Mobile Rally, the owner is thought to be G3GQE/M—but we would like a check on this.

(B) The two-metre control station for the Longleat Rally on June 21 signed G3SJI/A and when this picture was taken the operator was G3OUK. A very neat installation consisted of a Withers 2m. Tx (left) with a TW converter incorporated in the main receiver assembly.



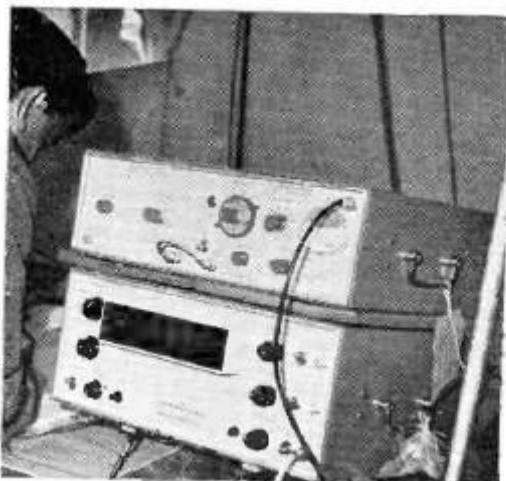
(A)



(B)

(D) One of the competitive events at the Longleat Rally on June 21 was a frequency-setting contest. For this a Marconi Frequency Counter Type 1417/2 was used, capable of giving the answer to nine decimal places! The winner was G3JFH/M, using the G6VX Sideband Transceiver described and illustrated in our June issue. The error he got was only 200 cycles—which most people would probably consider near-enough on a Top Band mobile rig!

(H) Making his annual personal appearance at the West of England Mobile Rally on June 21, the Marquis of Bath, owner of Longleat, presented the prizes. The little girl at lower left is his youngest daughter, Lady Sarah Thynne (who took a keen interest in all that went on). On the microphone is G3JMY, of the Rally organising committee.



(D)



(H)

## 1965

Now one of the well-established events, the West of England Rally at Longleat, Wilts. on June 27, attracted an attendance of more than 700, arriving in about 250 cars, with talk-in on three bands. Those present enjoyed warm and sunny weather for the whole day, and among the prize-winners were Bill Brennan, G3CQE/M (of our "RTTY Topics" feature) for the best mobile installation—he having won this same prize, on the same ground, on a previous occasion; G3KMT/P did best in the frequency-measuring contest, getting to within 744 cycles of 1933 kc (a harder test than you may think using strictly /M gear); and G3ABU/M, who made the best M/DX contact with control on Top Band.



1966

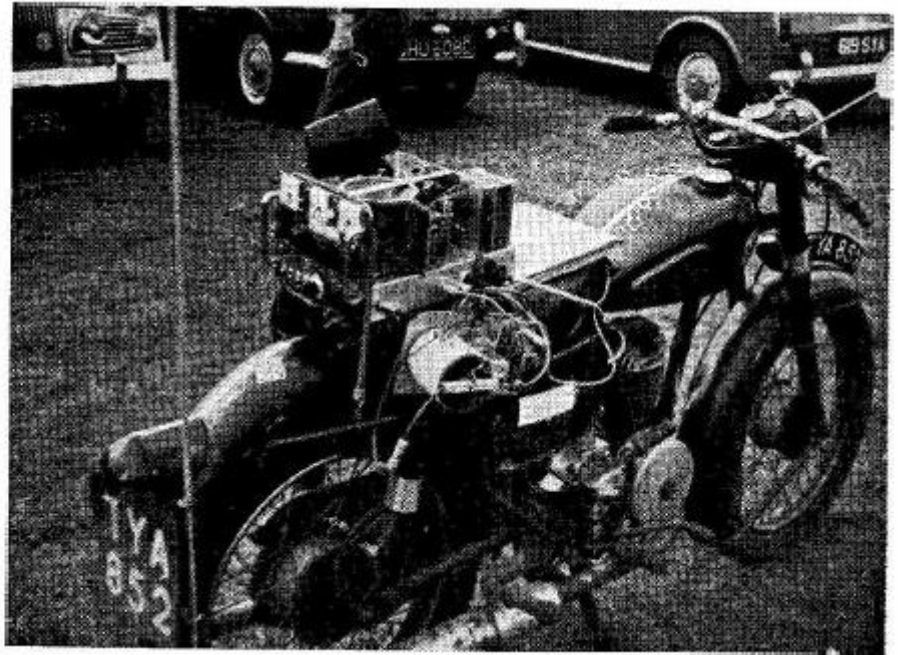


**A very keen member of the Bristol A.R.C. is SWL J. Hooper, who turned up at the Longleat Mobile Rally, complete with his /P Rx, having cycled all the way. The gear, which is not actually used mobile for obvious reasons, is entirely home-constructed and enables Jeremy to go out portable-listening on 160 metres. The enthusiasm of our SWL's is surpassed only by their ingenuity.**

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In addition to the Marquis of Bath's lions, this equipage attracted a good deal of attention at the Longleat Mobile Rally on June 26—the outfit on his motor-cycle, all home built by G3UPV/M, Warminster. The rig is a 160-metre transceiver, with an 11-transistor Rx and a 6-valve Tx, running 10 watts to an 807 PA, series-gate modulated. Well, it's one way of getting about mobile!

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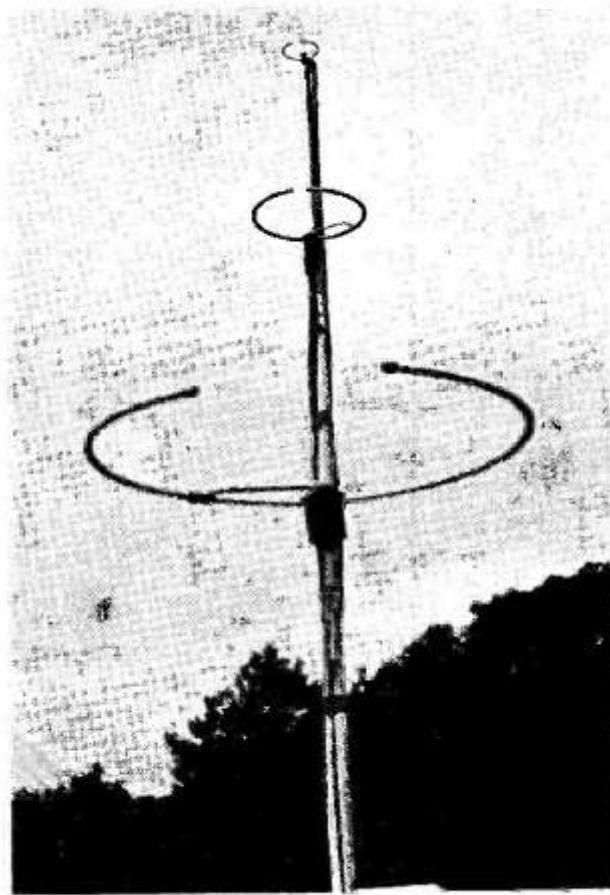
1967

There was also a Mobile Rally arranged for June 25 at Longleat—but for all the news we have had of it, the organisers could have been eaten by the lions . . . nor has anything been heard of the R.N. Rally Day at Lee-on-Solent, on June 17.

1969

For the Longleat (West of England) Rally on June 29 they again had perfect weather—the attendance actually logged was 910 names in the visitors' books and 420 cars parked by 2 p.m., and this takes no account of those who failed to identify by signing in. Truly, a splendid result, of which the Bristol boys may well be proud. Extra space had to be found this year to accommodate ten trade stands. Certainly, the setting for this Rally could hardly be bettered, as anyone who has been to Longleat would agree.

1970



Whose is this ? Seen at the Longleat Mobile Rally, a /M array for two metres, 70 cm. and 23 centimetres. We would very much like to hear from the owner, with a run-down on the gear.

1971

Down at *Longleat*, the attendance was put at "2000 in spite of inclement weather"—but of course at these stately-home Rally sites it is not really possible to separate those there for the Rally from the visitors to the place who would have been there anyway—indeed, we would think that the Marquis of Bath would regard two thousand as rather a low count for a June Sunday. Anyway, the Rally organisers were able to put on 14 Trade stands and a successful bring-and-buy stall. A variety of displays and demonstrations had been arranged, including one by the GPO TV/detector van showing how they do it (!!). Talk-in was provided on 160-80-2m., but no "worked mobiles" figures are quoted in the report. This is a pity, because it is only a matter of totalling up from the logs the /M's worked—these data being of great value from the statistical point of view. At Longleat, they had also planned a 4m. talk-in station but apparently the Tx went *phut* after the first QSO.

\* \* \*

## 1972

For the West of England Mobile Rally at Longleat on June 25, they "even had sun"—so says the report. The estimated total attendance comes to 2,300 and some 620 people actually signed in. This is always a popular and successful Rally, held at a most attractive site. An interesting innovation was a "competitive DX station", signing G6YB/P on 14 MHz, any licensed amateur being given five minutes to work what he could; 14 operators had a go at this, the winner being GW3ZQN, who got the valuable prize of a Heathkit balun.

The Longleat talk-in results are interesting. On Top Band, 60 /M's were worked; on two metres, 19 mobiles—and on 80m., they had no less than 46 /M's worked; this suggests that many more mobileers are fitting the commercial /M gear now available.

Trade results are thought to have been satisfactory—some visitors were heard saying they had "spent over £40," "I spent £20", and so forth. But the organisers, wisely, are conducting a survey to find out how the 20+ traders really got on, the idea being that for a future occasion they would have a more limited number of trade stands, likely to do well on the basis of the average Longleat crowd potential. (You see, the organisation of a big Rally is quite something, nowadays).

A very interesting side-result was that the Royal Signals and the Royal Navy visiting stations both succeeded in working the yachts representing the Services in the Trans-Atlantic Yacht Race.

With it all went a nicely-produced (numbered) programme setting out all the essential Rally details—selling for 5p towards expenses. All in all, the Bristol Group are to be congratulated on having put on their usual effective show, this being the 15th Mobile Rally in their series.

Picture taken at Longleat Mobile Rally on June 25, being a get-together of the Radio Amateur Invalid Bedfast Club. The lady at centre is Mrs. Frances Woolley, G3LWY, with her husband G3ESR behind at her right. It is these two who are the executive officials of the R.A.I.B.C., which does so much for the 400+ members of the association, one of the charities in the Amateur Radio field.



## 1974

The Longleat event on July 7 brought in about 2,000 visitors—not their largest recorded, it being thought that the TV coverage of the World Cup Final on that day somewhat reduced the potential attendance (indeed, many were heard on the air saying they would be at the TV and not at Longleat). However, amongst the keen visitors were the party from Guernsey—they chartered an aircraft to Southampton and then came on by road to Longleat—dedicated enthusiasm indeed, and we are only sorry that we have not got a picture of this group.

Logs from Longleat show 97 contacts on Top Band, 64 on Eighty and 58 stations worked on two metres, mainly talk-in QSO's. One of the radio amateur visitor events was the "walking D/F Hunt," confined to the grounds which, we are told, drew a large entry. The new hon. secretary/treasurer of the RAIBC, G3HXN and his XYL, were present to meet members of that group.

Once again, Longleat—in a wonderful setting, with so many amenities for visitors—was a very successful occasion, on which G3ULJ and the Bristol Group team are to be congratulated.

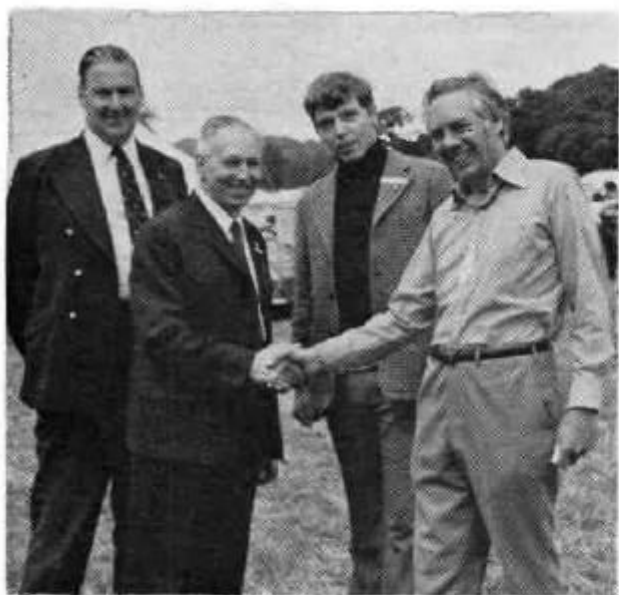


**Panoramic scene, West of England Mobile Rally,  
Longleat, Wilts., June 29.**

This year's "Longleat," on June 29, organised by the Bristol Group and the 18th in their series, was again an outstanding event, the perfect weather undoubtedly contributing to its success. Their statistics are astonishing: No less than 4,100 visitors actually signed

in—the count in the Rally car park at 2.30 p.m. 2,166 cars and 12 coaches—and 50 tent/caravans with overnight campers. The talk-in stations worked 22 mobiles on Top Band, 40 /M's on Eighty, and 116 two-metre mobiles, which seems to speak for itself. Visitors came in from all parts of the country, including GM and GW, and there were several interesting callsigns of overseas amateurs on holiday in the U.K. On the trade side, stands were taken by 27 firms, who reported "complete satisfaction and brisk trading." Other organisations represented were the GPO, with their TV sleuthing rig; the 30th Signal Regiment, Royal Signals, showing some of the latest Army equipment; and the Club groups included the R.N. and R.A.F. Amateur Radio Societies, the A.R.M.S., the R.A.I.B.C. and the local arm of the Red Cross, who each year look after the medical side and take care of any casualties.

Of course, Longleat is the ideal setting for a Mobile Rally, particularly if the weather is right—it has everything, in beautiful and carefully maintained surroundings. Nevertheless, a big Rally event calls for careful organisation and much forward planning, involving a great deal of hard work—and can be expensive. However, with their years of experience, Brian Croker, G3ULJ, Longleat organiser, with his team, can be relied upon to make the West of England Rally a Good Show.



Meeting at Longleat, left to right: G3ZZR, G2FIX, G4DVP and G8BTL. This is an RAF A.R.S. group, G2FIX and G4DVP being regular net operators.



Caravan set-up for the 80-metre talk-in station, with G3JMY operating. Some 40 mobile contacts were made on this band for the Rally on June 29.



Another Longleat impression—one of the Trade stands in the warm sunshine of June 29, when they had some 5000 visitors (see report). We are also told that there were some of the light-fingered gentry about, in the shape of large women with capacious shoulder bags, scooping up the unconsidered trifle. Apparently, they were soon spotted and hustled out of the ground!



Above—The tented 160m. talk-in station for Longleat. They had 22 mobiles calling in. G3VJJ was operating when this was taken. Below—For Longleat on June 29, the two-metre talk-in station was, as expected, kept exceptionally busy, nearly 120 mobiles being worked by this group of operators, signing G3TAD/P.

1987

30th ANNIVERSARY



The sun shone on the morning of June 28, heralding the start of this year's Longleat Rally. It seems they always have good weather on the day, or perhaps we only remember those years?

Every rally seems to be better than the last, and this was no exception. The view as you drove down through the Longleat estate was very impressive — large marquees, hundreds

of cars and thousands of people.

It was good to meet old friends, and make some new ones, on the *Short Wave Magazine* and *Practical Wireless* stand. We really enjoy meeting readers and try to have a chat with each and every one. This year the stand was busier than ever, and so was the rest of the rally if reports we heard were any thing to go on. The famous bring and buy tent

was permanently full of people browsing and buying.

The arena entertainment was also up to the usual high standard, how the marching band stood up to the heat so well is a mystery. Hopefully all the entrants in the colouring competition enjoyed it too!

Look forward to meeting you all again next year.