

## DARK SIGNALS, by Si Dunn

A quick review for the ARC-5 reflector (by me):

Re “Dark Signals” -- I got the book in a day. I read it in a (long) day. It’s a very good story about real Navy radio and by a real Navy radioman on a DD off the Vietnamese Coast. He came in, in 1964, as a ham and that experience served him well and saved some lives. Inasmuch as he had access to all the top-secret signals, he knew our involvement in the all-too-real war he was in the midst of was a fraud. Only much later could he write about it, or even speak about it. He paid a high personal price. I'm happy to have read this some times sad story.



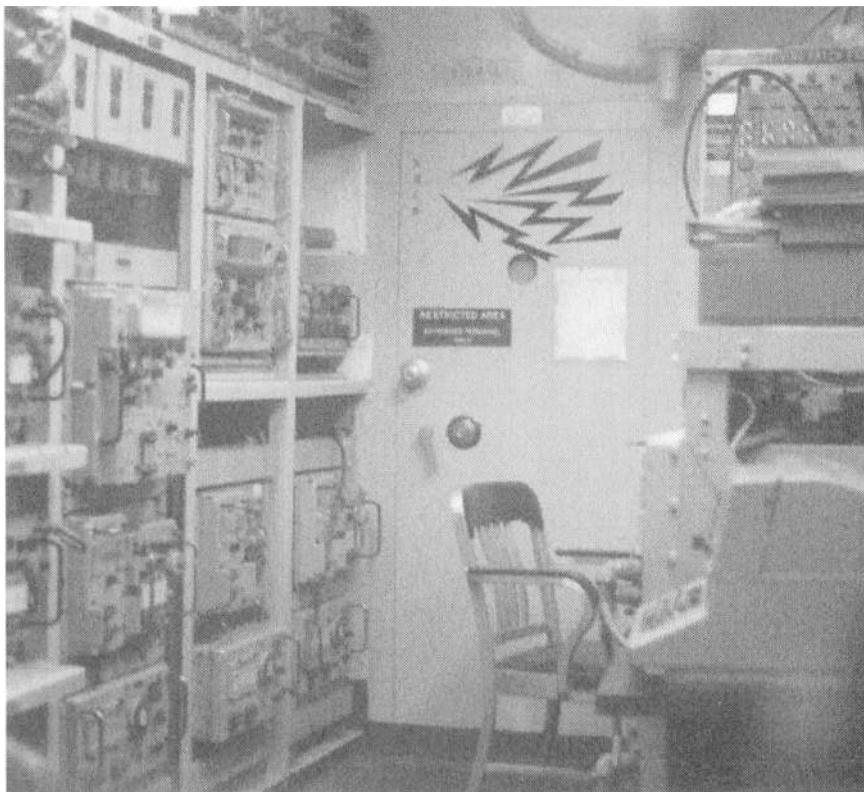
## Dark Signals

A Navy Radio Operator in the Tonkin Gulf  
and South China Sea, 1964-1965

Si Dunn

Dunn's life as a teenage radio enthusiast will find a lot of resonance in those of us who built radios in high school and

earlier, and who listened to the wonderful shortwave international cacophony of Cycle 19 (1957 – '63). Dunn then joined the world of amateur radio. His self-taught skills made a difference in the world of the Navy.



Radio Central, the main radio room aboard a Gearing Class destroyer. The encrypted radio teletype equipment and the crypto compartment were behind the closed door

This is the restored radio room of the museum ship *USS*

*Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.* (DD-850)

(Photo by Si Dunn)

Amazon says (maybe written by Dunn):

“In August, 1964, a young U.S. Navy radio operator found himself in waters he had never heard of, participating in the expansion of a war in a nation he didn't know existed: Vietnam. What he learned from actions he witnessed and the classified messages he handled over the next 10 months left him shaken, disillusioned, and full of questions about America's responses to

events in the Tonkin Gulf and South China Sea, including the rush to bomb North Vietnam and the Johnson Administration's decisions to vastly expand the presence of U.S. ground, air, and naval forces in Southeast Asia. Some within the U.S. 7th Fleet knew almost from the outset that the still-controversial "second attack" which triggered the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution did not involve North Vietnamese PT boats firing on U.S. Navy destroyers in pitch-dark seas. What it did involve, others have since shown, was something simpler and much stranger. This is one sailor's memories of being present at the ragged beginnings of a long conflict that ultimately failed and cost 58,000 American lives."

Amazon Paperback: \$12.99 or \$2.49 or \$8.69

[amazon.com/Dark-Signals-Operator-Tonkin-1964-1965/](http://amazon.com/Dark-Signals-Operator-Tonkin-1964-1965/)

(de K6VK, 05 VII '19)