



## HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE CLARK PNEUMATIC MAST USED WITH RADIO RELAY



The introduction of the Clark mast provided a major improvement for the radio relay detachment, see left. It could be erected by two, could be vehicle mounted or mounted on the ground and the antenna could be rotated when fully erected. The photo above shows the 36/48 ft mast, which it replaced. The two pictures speak for themselves. The Clark came in two sizes 12m and 21.5m. The norm was the smaller mast. There were several points regarding the Clark mast that required to be carefully managed by the radio relay detachment. The seals of sections could fail if not properly maintained and treated with a special silicone grease, which also prevented moisture in the mast freezing when the mast was fully erected. It could be pumped up using a hand pump, but more normally it was pumped up by the vehicle air line. This could be achieved in 10 to 15 minutes.



The final picture shows the advantage of the Clark mast in a woodland. Camouflage was easier and so was erection amongst trees. As path profile analysis became more critical it was also possible to quickly raise or lower the antenna if required. Both pictures show the Clark being used with a C50 radio relay detachment. A final point was always to check low bridge classifications, because several masts were damaged on 4 Ton detachments by the careless driver. The mast head stuck up above the 1 ton Box body, so was vulnerable to a strike!