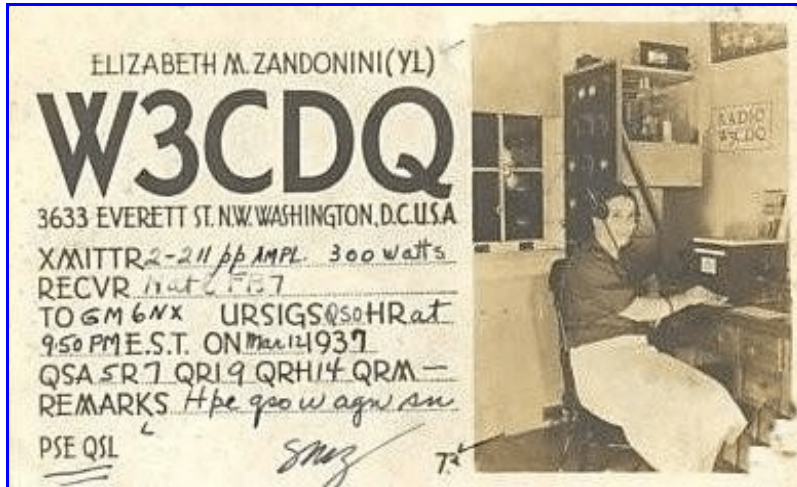


Elizabeth M. Zandonini W3CDQ *1898-1989* A Life long DC resident, “Emzie” to those who knew her, technical writer, linguist, instructor. An “OW” (Old Woman) from the pioneer days when she was first licensed in 1922 as (3CDQ) Her interest started much earlier and she obtained a commercial ticket in 1917 while still in high school.

Her many talents included being fluent in Italian, Spanish, French and German was (part of her occupation in 1921 at (Radio Section U.S. Bureau of Standards) doing scientific translations, maintained their museum and toured visiting scientists. In 1953 she celebrated her 33rd anniversary.



Liz became involved in wireless radio around the time span of the first World War. Joining the Public Health Service, she taught radio communication to disabled soldiers in Army Hospitals, Camp Meade and Fort McHenry helping them acquire new skills.

Her willingness to teach about radio operations was something she displayed for her entire life.

Liz was more than a teacher, she was an accomplished builder and designer of equipment at a time when women were not expected to know about engineering in a mens world. Liz was eager to learn as much as she could about electronics and was fascinated how circuits worked. She especially enjoyed working CW and years after most hams had moved exclusively to phone, she stated in her application for membership in OOTC “I operate only on CW and in the 40 Meter amateur band.” My heavens, that’s my kind of thinking “ZUT Forever.”

When Liz applied for Fraternal Group OOTC membership in 1965, it was another YL who was Secretary Treasurer of the OOTC, Eunice Randall proving what a small world it was. Ms Emzie received membership number 700L - also an early IRE (IEEE) member/technical writer and active member of the Washington Radio Club and proud to be past president YLRL of the ARRL. An interesting photo of Liz at her rig appeared in several newspapers in early February of 1925, the caption which called her a “remarkable young woman and one of the most skilled operators in Washington.” It described the equipment and noted that she had built it all herself.

Partially scripted Donna Halper broadcast historian, & W5RZJ.

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