



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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Monique Hanotte (*Image credit: Daily Telegraph*)

REMEMBRANCE: CENTENARIANS

With this issue, eDEN achieves its first century in the month of November, the month in which our header article by custom notes the sacrifice of those who died in conflict. On this occasion, your Editor decided to head this issue with a surviving centenarian, **Monique Hanotte**. Monique was 19 years old in May 1940, when two men - a pair of officers from the British Expeditionary Force - walked into her family's hotel of the Belgian village of Rumes. They had become separated during the retreat towards Dunkirk, and pleaded with Hanotte's mother and father, a First World War veteran, to help them get over the French border, just a mile or so away, and evade capture. They dressed the men as coal merchants and walked them past the customs post and into France.

Those officers would prove the first of nearly 140 Allied airmen the family would rescue over the ensuing years. And, from that point on, it was Hanotte herself who would walk with them over the border or accompany them on trains to Paris and Lille. Hanotte became one of the most prolific members of the Belgian resistance network known as the Comet Line, which saved more than 800 airmen and soldiers from captivity during the Second World War. She turned 100 recently and is one of the last surviving witnesses to their extraordinary bravery, with just half a dozen or so Comet Line members now left alive. The average time between signing up as a member of the Comet Line and being captured was just three months. This month, sitting in her apartment with her medals - including an MBE - pinned to a cushion and surrounded by birthday cards, Hanotte in an interview with the UK's *Daily Telegraph*, told of her fascinating life – see Tailpiece! We remember these centenarian survivors, and their colleagues who did not survive, also.

In Part I this month, we pause to remember the life of our long-time Committee member, author and experimenter **Richard Trim**, who sadly died in September, before moving on to the newest controversy ignited by Professor **John Ferris**, who spoke to us a year ago at our Science Museum Conference on Security; is Bletchley's part in World War 2 over-rated? Read his book, 'Behind the Enigma' to find out! Your Editor's copy is in front of him as he types this. We look next at the **Bawdsey Radar Trust's Graham Murchie and Lynette Burgess** describing the recent dramatic light shows at Bawdsey with the leads to YouTube, and then **Mike Dean, Brian Mendes and David Robertson** provide feedback to last month's articles. **Andy Young** provided a mystery unit from his vast collection; help in identification came from **Phil Racher** and details of the British jammer **Carpet II** from **Tony Waller**. **Chris Cooper** tells us of his thorough analysis of the **Receiver Type 172**, used in 10cm H2S and often overshadowed by the much less used 'Pye IF Strip', its 3cm counterpart. **Tony Waller** provides a truly blockbuster instalment of his fascinating series '**To Restore or Not To Restore: THAT is the Question!**' with a major article on his researches into early GEE; then, stimulated by last month's article on polystyrene in radar, we examine the manufacturer's version in '**High Frequency Cables: the Telcon Story 1850-1950**' thanks to **Ray Essen** (whose own book is out soon!). A second comparison of 'researcher's story and manufacturer's story' is provided by '**Taffy**' **Bowen's, Keith Wood's and Metropolitan Vickers Ltd's** accounts of how **high-cycle AC generators** came to be developed for use in aircraft; this article forms Part I of a series on '**Generators for use In Aircraft**' to be continued in future months. '**New Zealand Radars: Antecedents & Subsequent Development**' are then covered in detail by **Grahame Fraser**, and we round off with several short articles from early issues of our quarterly '**Transmission Lines**' - **Mike Rowland** on the '**History of Radio Relay in the British Army**', **George May** on '**Airborne VHF Relay**' and a personality in that field, **E.L. Smart**, recounts his '**Working Life at RAE**'.

In Part II, we introduce a new initiative - a '**Work in Progress**', in which all members are invited to join in! An informal on-line discussion of the little-studied but extremely important diffusion of the **ASV II radar** to the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand produced the realisation that the members of that group individually had much information, images and indeed the kit itself, and your Editor offered to assemble at least the bare bones of a story, to which DEHS' ASV guru **Professor Simon Watts**, has kindly said he will add his pen. Now, there must be a variety of members with information, photos and ideas about this equipment and its copying across the Allied nations, so please, search your filing cabinets and memory banks and let us know – all contributions will of course be properly and professionally acknowledged. In this month's article, huge thanks and credit to **Mike Blom** in the USA, **Mike Dean, Brian Austin, Tony Waller and Simon Watts**. Tailpiece 2 looks back from this eDEN #100 to eDEN #1 – a total 17 pages!

In this 100th issue, I pay especial thanks to **Mike Dean**, without whom many issues would not have appeared in anything like their present richness – terrific job, Mike, and thank you so much.

Suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me please at philijudkins@btinternet.com or info@dehs.org.uk.

On now to the eDEN's 'Second Century'! - warmest regards all, and keep safe,

Phil

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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- Reprinted verbatim from ‘Transmission Lines’ (details in each article) as part of our programme to revisit important articles.