



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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EMP

The picture shows the lightning strike on Manchester Piccadilly station last Tuesday, a strike which disabled most of the signalling system in that area and across the Pennines commuting route into Manchester. As your Chairman was at that moment travelling across to the International Conference on the History of Science, Technology and the Medicine at Manchester University to deliver a paper on the Anglo-French Variable Geometry aircraft project of 1965-7, his train came to a halt and started him thinking down the track of the **DEHS Autumn Symposium on the Cold War**, now just 11 weeks away (so **BOOK NOW** if you haven't already!). The connection with EMP and the lightning strike was that, at our Symposium, **Jonathan Ayles** will reveal to us his discoveries about the first British nuclear deterrent, **Blue Danube** (and from my lunch with Jonathan when I finally got to Manchester, these will be very interesting). **John Stubbington** will deliver his meticulously-researched account of the EW of the Cold War period, and, in this issue of **eDEN**, **Tony Helm** gives us a foretaste of his talk and its associated display, which will focus on the Warsaw Pact and its equipment; next month, Tony gives us further details of some of the equipment he has been able to locate, and fascinating indeed it is! We of course also have the **Burns Lecture**, where Dassault's **Luc Berger** will tell the story of how France's aviation industry developed in a very distinct way from that of the UK, and give us perhaps a chance to ponder on how our own aircraft industry could perhaps have turned out differently; as a parallel, we might note that it is the French Thales which owns a big chunk of the UK's defence electronics industry.

By now, all DEHS members can probably chant from memory the **eDEN** mantra (and DEHS policy) of deliberately widely varied content – our guidelines of 'DC to light'; earliest times to the present (and future); absolutely *anything* military in which electronics are involved; and tracing the stories of the people as well as the equipment. I am always delighted where an **eDEN** article triggers a response, and this month our own **Mike Dean** was inspired by the recent articles on **Tantallon and infra-red** to search out the full story from an obscure file at the National Archives, Kew. I promised last month to print my paper on **Telecommunications and Air Defence** as given to the conference, organised by DEHS member **Dr Elizabeth Bruton**, on

'Telecommunications in World War I' held in Leeds last month, and Part I is published in this issue; you'll see how I wove together information from earlier **eDEN** articles to illustrate the story of what was the world's first national air defence system. I've included a note about an amateur special event station commemorating the **Korean War**, a sadly-neglected conflict to which I hope we will return; **Ops Board** finds lectures in short supply in August (!), and so, bearing our Autumn Symposium in mind, I list some Cold War events to visit, together with a **Secret Communications** event which our Arthur Bauer is planning in November; and **Tailpiece** pictures an unusual marine hypsometer from the Winbolt Collection.

As ever, suggestions for improvements, offers of articles and all general comments to me at philjudkins@btinternet.com or chairman@dehs.org.

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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