



## **e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER**

THE e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY:  
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### **INTERNATIONAL AND UK MEMBER WELCOMES: eDEN - HOW MANY COLUMNS?; FUTURE FEATURES: BOOK NOW FOR SHRIVENHAM AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM!**

Hard-copy *Transmission Lines*, with AGM 12 Agenda and Accounts, having at last all been despatched, it's now my chance to welcome three new members, including our first Australian member, who commented that he was *'a tad surprised that there are no previous Australian members as there has been considerable migration and there are direct technical links via Woomera rocket range [Long Range Weapons LRW, Weapons Research Establishment WRE] and the UK bomb at Maralinga etc. Most of the 'sources' are at your end after all!'* – which is well said, and we'll seek to include an Australian article at the earliest date. The very next e-mail into my mailbox was from New Zealand, seeking information about New Zealand's Dr Ernest Marsden at Bawdsey in 1939! In this issue, I feature Canada, in the shape of the Artillery Museum at Shilo, Manitoba and their placing on display probably the only surviving GL3C radars, which played a significant role in combatting Britain's 'Baby Blitz' of 1943 – see below for more.

In my cover note to last month's *eDEN*, I asked whether members preferred one or two columns as the format for *eDEN*; the answer seemed pretty conclusive, with a 75% to 25% preference for single column format, plus several members who said very firmly that they didn't care a hoot about the number of columns as it was the content which mattered. What also emerged was that members' preferences varied according to whether they read *eDEN* on the screen (single column preferred) or downloaded *eDEN* and read it 'in a comfortable armchair with a whisky and soda' (one member's quote!), for which two columns were preferred. Also relevant was the observation that members using tablets (tablet PCs, not the medical sort!!) preferred two-column for reading from the screen, and this is likely to be a growing population. Distributing multiple variations of an *eDEN* with significant image content in a single e-mail means large file attachment sizes, and knowing from experience that many members' ISPs will not handle files over 10MB, your Chairman has to keep file sizes down, so for the moment your Chairman will discuss after the AGM a proposition to distribute PDF in

both single and 2-column format in a first distribution, while a separate e-mail distribution a few minutes after the first will go to members who strongly prefer Word.

The deliberately varied content of **eDEN** will of course continue – ‘DC to light’; absolutely *anything* military in which electronics are involved, including tracing the stories of the people as well as the kit; I’d like, for example, to introduce an article or two on control systems before long. Financing military electronics is little examined, but cash is the reason why projects today come to public notice, and finance is the motivation behind much of the archival record - to get more money or to excuse money being mis-spent. After penning last month’s *Silhouette* article (many thanks to quite a number of you who wrote in and said you liked it), it struck me that a useful follow-up would be an article on what early UK radar really did cost – so that’s what you’re getting here in **eDEN3**, and the result should be fuel for a few saloon bar arguments!

The story of UK radar, said our own Peter Waddell, has ‘more holes than a Gruyere cheese’. Peter’s quote drifted into my mind, and I thought it might be fun to follow up *Silhouette* and *Costing Radar* with a series on the ‘*Holes in the UK Radar Story*’, the subjects which sprang immediately to mind including:

- Pre-war Bawdsey knowledge of other nations’ electronics research (or ‘What Watt Wot’) – the answer being ‘Watt Wot a Lot’, including about *Russian* work;
- Publishing Radar; the 1940/1 UK debates around making radar public (yes, we were thinking of making it public in 1940!);
- 4 Champions of Radar: Watson Watt names four champions of radar in his ‘*Three Steps to Victory*’ - Sholto Douglas, Wilfrid Freeman, Philip Joubert de la Ferte, and ‘Ginger’ Bowhill, but quite explicitly debars ‘Stuffy’ Dowding. Why, and why not?;

- amid a host of others. Do not fear, however, that eDEN will become ‘just radar’ – far from it!

In this **eDEN3**, you’ll find more answers contributed by you all to queries raised in earlier **eDENs** – and once again, you’ll find me using these as something of a ‘teaching aid’, as examples to show how to find the answers to other queries. I’ve also held over the article on *Tracing Home Front Relatives* as I’m hopeful of significant news on this topic in the next month; instead, I’ve included a ‘teaser’, ‘*Was Typex Compromised?*’ to encourage you to book for our Autumn Symposium! I’ve also included three ‘Forthcomings’ – which interestingly all chance to have a naval flavour; John Wise’s forthcoming book on naval intercept; the arrival for trials at her new base of HMS *Ambush*, second of the *Astute* class; and details Exercise *Cougar*, where British forces will exercise with French and Albanian (!) ships and units.

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

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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