



# ***e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER***

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## **THE FIRST STEP?**

It was **Professor Hugh Griffiths**, whose **IEEE Mimno Award** we featured as last month's lead, who stimulated me to create an issue to mark the recent 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Daventry Experiment**, featured in the famous painting owned by BAE above. Probably more tosh has been talked about this experiment than almost any other; the aim was simply to satisfy **'Stuffy' Dowding's** demand for a 'practical demonstration', and Watson Watt makes it quite clear in his autobiography (pages 108 onwards) that he was setting up an experiment which he knew could hardly fail. What has not, so far as I know, seen the light of publication before is **GPO Radio Report 223**, which had almost 4 years earlier reported and tabulated the interference caused by aeroplanes to radio signals, and which we are told **'Skip' Wilkins** recalled, thereby triggering the British version of how radar came to be – so, on pages 32 and following, here is GPO 223 with all its data! Another half-forgotten topic is the **early British experiments with air controlled interception** – so again, here is both **Hodges' 1988 IEE article** and **the original TRE report T1185** on the subject, with grateful thanks to S/Ldr Mike Dean both for finding T1185 and for great work on both OCR and on making the illegible, legible. In turn, Mike unexpectedly turned up new pictures of **GEE Mk I** while answering a query on **AI in the Defiant (!)**, and also gets a response from **John 'Jacey' Wise** on Mike's question last month on the **AMES 26**, while our Canadian colleague **Brian Mendes** reports the finding of two more **Canadian GL3C vans** – alas, without interiors. **Thales** announces a joint venture with **Ultra** on high-capacity line-of-sight comms, and also orders for their **Syracuse III Satcom** terminals, while Tailpiece is all about **confiscating diathermy machines** – and we know the use to which they were put!

**Finally, eDEN wouldn't be eDEN, of course, my pleading you to get your pens out and both book for our Burns Lecture, and buy those of our excellent publications which you haven't got – so get on with it! I look forward to seeing you at the Burns on April 9th!**

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

Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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