



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

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY  
No 36: July 2015

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS AND DEHS: PROFESSOR GRAEME GOODAY**

We featured last month our President, **Keith Thrower**, and his magnificent contribution to funding the joint research project between himself, DEHS, CEMT and Leeds University on the electronic developments of the interwar period which were stimulated by World War 1 advances. This month, our 'cover star' is **Professor Graeme Gooday** at the University of Leeds: he is Professor of the History of Science and Technology and Head of the School (Philosophy, Religion and History of Science) where the research project is based and where interviews take place on 17 July.

**Professor Gooday** joined the University of Leeds in August 1994, following postdoctoral research posts in history of science and technology at the Universities of Kent and Oxford. Broadly interested in the history of electrical technology post-1870, his recent books have concerned the hazards of electric lighting, *Domesticating Electricity* (Pickering and Chatto, 2008) and early patent battles in power and communications, *Patently Contestable* (MIT Press, 2013); the latter, co-authored with Stathis Arapostathis of the University of Athens, was recently awarded a prize by the British Society for the History of Science. Committed to collaboration with national and regional heritage bodies, he has work on numerous projects with BT Archives and the Archives of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, as well as with the Science Museum and National Maritime Museum in London and the Museum of Science and Technology in Manchester. Most recently he led a project '*Innovating in Combat*' on telecommunications and intellectual property in the First World War, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, in partnership with BT, IET, the Oxford Museum of the History of Science and Porthcurno Telegraph Museum.

**eDEN 36** is in something of a holiday mood, with recommendations for three books for holiday reading – our member **Ray Essen's 'The Birth of Atomic Time'**, and then two books dealing with the lesser-explored (in the UK) area of 1950s and 60s co-operation with Australia on testing of guided weapons (the **Woomera** range) and nuclear weapons (**Maralinga**); stimulated by our member **John Kaesehagen**, I'm asking for info and stories on telemetry in these areas. Magwatch turns up, from '**Flypast**', an interesting article on the anti-aircraft training done at **RAF Cleave** (with an unexpected B17 landing) and its transition to today's **GCHQ Bude**. We reproduce more original articles which "deserve to be better known", this time three contributions from the **Post Office Electrical Engineers Journal**, on **Fighter Command**, **Bomber Command** and on the **Atlantic War**. **Thales** announces a contract from Canada for **vehicle-mounted surveillance kit**, followed by our own **Publications List**, and **Ops Board**, again reminding us of the current **Oxford exhibition on the physicist Henry Moseley**. Sadly, we print obituaries for our member **Roger Voles** and also for G/Capt. '**Tubby Vielle**', whose controversial book on TRE personalities we recorded several months

ago. Tailpiece provides the answer to last month's photo-recce puzzle (did you get it right) and also shows that the DWI Wellington was not unique as a flying mine detonator – more, that the Photo-recce People at RAF Medmenham knew it!

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.

## INDEX

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Editorial   | 1  |
| Index   | 2  |
| The Birth of Atomic Time <i>Ray Essen</i>   | 3  |
| Woomera, Missile Control and Telemetry <i>John Kaesehagen</i>                           | 6  |
| Maralinga   | 12 |
| Magwatch: RAF Cleave/ GCHQ Bude <i>Flypast/Peter London</i>                             | 13 |
| Post Office: Fighter Command Communications <i>A M Hanna</i>                            | 15 |
| Post Office: The Bomber Lines <i>A G Robins</i>   | 19 |
| Post Office: The Battle of the Atlantic <i>Alston, Bland, Perryman, Worthington</i>     | 23 |
| Obituary: Roger Voles: Group Captain Eugene 'Tubby' Vielle                              | 27 |
| Thales Announcement: Canadian light armoured vehicle-reconnaissance surveillance system | 29 |
| DEHS Publications   | 30 |
| Ops Board; Current Oxford Exhibition "Dear Henry.."                                     | 31 |
| Tailpiece: Photo-interpretation answer, and 'DWI' Ju 52's!                              | 33 |