



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

**THE e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY:
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NEW MEMBER WELCOME: AS12 AND AGM 12: eDEN - HOW MANY COLUMNS?

A warm welcome to a new member, who is currently completing a PhD at the University of Leeds, which institution, we are delighted to note, is actively encouraging research into early electrical and electronic matters.

The DEHS Autumn Symposium was held on 11 October at the UK Defence Academy, Shrivenham – and for those of you who missed it, you missed a cracker!! Opening with reflections on Alan Turing's relevance to today's intelligence challenges by Dr. Julian Richards, recently of GCHQ, we were plunged into the complexity of today's intelligence world where there are few recognizable 'front lines' and the clash lies between justifiable civil liberties and detecting the enemy inside the state, and where intelligence may be used in the foreshortened 'kill-chain' permitted by today's UAV, and the future semi-autonomous drone. Arthur Bauer and I then put forward a two-screen balanced view of the Desert War of 1939-43, focusing on the less well-known aspects such as German tropospheric communications and deep penetration infiltration of spies, in addition to exploring the possible compromise of the British Typex cipher machine. In the afternoon we had two excellent presentations on the Falklands War; an account of what really happened in SIGINT by David Thorp, who was in charge of that function, and who vividly illustrated the successes, the improvisation, the confusion and the errors which we all know to mark any conflict, but which are rarely so well expressed; and then a powerful analysis of the Exocet threat and the British response by John Stubbington, whose soundly-reasoned forensic research took no prisoners in its quietly-expressed but devastating conclusions.

This issue of *eDEN* again gives feedback on queries raised by members in earlier issues, and contains a variety of articles designed to show the width of our interests – from tracking down the truth about the use of radio installations on a Swanage hilltop (interesting D-Day cross-channel VHF links, based on modified GPO equipment) through metric air intercept radar to the design of post-war torpedo equipment, with a perspective into very long-range WW2 infiltration of German spies into Cairo, their compromise through capture of their radio control station – and the vignette of the future President of Egypt, but then Lieutenant, Anwar Sadat, personally testing their

transmitter with a multimeter (*yes, this is another 'teaser' to stimulate you to buy the 2012 Autumn Symposium Proceedings*). An early piece of V-bomber synthetic trainer gear is searching for a new home; the MoD has announced the refurbishment of the Commandos' Vikings, and my tailpiece focusses on an RAF officer who made unusual use of his sonar and radar experiences in the advancement of post-war medical science.

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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