



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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SNOW WHITE – AND EIGHT DWARFS!

eDEN 41 takes the form of a 'Bumper Christmas Annual, 2015' in which our articles reflect a generally festive theme in an unstable world. In the UK, the holiday season may typically involve a visit to a pantomime, and one often staged is 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' [or 'Dwarves', if you are a Tolkien addict]. As it happens, **Snow White** is also the name of an **RAF post-WW2 decimetric multichannel communications system**, and since comms of this type have not been much featured in **eDEN**, I have reproduced a brief description from the Air Publication of both the system and – as aerials attracted some member interest last month - its aerial system. **The 7 Dwarfs** are represented by the **RAF's E-3 Sentry aircraft**, which are named after the 7 Dwarfs; and as one E-3 has been, we are told, retired and **eDEN** does not give short measure, we have included an 'eighth dwarf', the gunboat **HMS Dwarf**, part of the **1914 Naval assault force to close down the German wireless station at Dyala/Duala in German Camerouns**. We recall 'Christmas Past' in the form of 'The Park before the Park'; **John Gallehawk** has uncovered the story of Bletchley's part in World War 1 wireless! We then move into the field of an audio attachment to **eDEN**, as **Clive Kidd** responded on last month's question on **WW1 buzzers and sounders** not only with more information, but also with audio! The interwar period is well represented by **Prof. Brian Austin's** communication of the **original Farnborough log of the 'Davenport Experiment' flight**, and by a contemporary account of **airborne communications equipment from STC**. **S/Ldr. Mike Dean** sets out his research on the development of **Mobile Radio Unit aerial towers** (which I suppose is the nearest we come to Christmas trees!). Other Xmas traditions in the UK include the scary ghost story, and a feast; these I represent by the **early WW2 operations codenamed Beetle and Banquet**, which illustrate little-known **radio features of** – and the patchy nature of - **Britain's 1940 anti-invasion defences**, for the proposed use of Training Command's biplane **Audax** aircraft against the Luftwaffe needs little embellishment to terrify; nor, indeed, does the dire state of Britain's (lack of) capability for locating and recovering lost aircraft, until the introduction of the 'Darky' system, where **Mike Dean** summarises for us a useful, but now forgotten, book on the system, 'The Dark Haven' – and appeals for pictures. **John 'Jacey' Wise** once again shares with us his substantial knowledge and wisdom, this time on the **FH4 Naval HF D/F system**, while a further informed view on the **accuracy against the V-1 cruise missile of the Bofors AA gun, both with and without radar guidance**, delighted our colleague **Brian Mendes**, not least as it made a contact with contemporaries of his own training days! **Walter Blanchard** contributes a note on where to locate his store of valuable **Decca Navigator** information and research, and we report more work on the equipment of the 1950s and 60s rocket tests in Australia in the series begun by **John Kaesehagen** on identifying **1950s and 60s telemetry equipment** from his collection. We then look at the bizarre case of a **British fire engine company's role in the OTH radar Cobra Mist**, and **Mike Dean** again provides an input, this time on **dish aerials** as experimented with both at **Malvern** and most recently (*Daily Telegraph, Saturday 28 November!*) in **China** – don't say **eDEN** is not up to the minute! On current events, **John 'Jacey' Wise** recounts recent developments in **Iran and the Ukraine**, and **Prof David Stupples** assesses **how Syria is becoming a testbed for EW**. To open the party mood, we give some highlights of **Arthur Bauer's Museum Open Day** recently, and our **Publications Page** contains details of a **Xmas Offer to members – it's free, you just pay postage!** **Ops Board**, as well as events in December and reminding you that the **Oxford exhibition is open until mid-January**, sets out some **diary dates to keep free in both 2016 and 2017**; more details next month! Finally, **Tailpiece** poses a query on an **unidentified**

radio of Danish origin, believed to be a prototype for a 'stay-behind' set; this is our Christmas 'mystery item' quiz, but this time, no, we don't have the answer! Your thoughts and input, please!

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

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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