



e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY
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SERENDIPITY AT BAWDSEY

eDEN does not as a rule feature pictures of your Editor's garden furniture, but there is a good – and very unusual - reason; **eDEN 50, the H2S issue**, contained our interview with our 2016 Restoration Award winner, **Tatjana van Vark**, the restorer of the V-bomber H2S Mk 9/NBS, and Tatjana appealed for certain items needed to complete her restoration with original items; among those were a series of Control Panels and Rectifier Units. It chanced that a couple of days later, your Editor and his Communications and Electronics Museum colleague **Sean Williams** were at Bawdsey to help our good friends and DEHS members in the **Bawdsey Radar Trust** identify some items in their stores – and there, lo and behold, were the items Tatjana needed! The Bawdsey Radar Trust were very pleased to present those to Tatjana, and thanks to offer of transport to Holland from our own **Arthur Bauer**, these will very shortly be incorporated in Tatjana's restoration – of which more news next month, in **eDEN 52**, which will follow-up on the many items sent in by members on H2S and contain the second part of the interview with Tatjana, looking at more of the rarer H2S items in her collection and at some of her quite astonishing historical re-creations.

This month's **eDEN 51** contains many member contributions across a vast range of topics. We open with a letter from **John Kaesehagen** in Australia, seeking help on the original words abbreviated into the **CV designation**; as you will see from the letter, John has done his own research, and does not want to know 'the usual stories' but properly-referenced material for the true source of the term. We appeal also for more input on the proposal to fit **H2S 9 into the Canberra**, thanks to the stimulus from **Tony Wilson** and some work he has done in the BAE Warton archive, more material from which will appear, with thanks to BAE Warton Archivist and DEHS member **Gordon Slater**, next month in **eDEN 52** which will contain much more on H2S contributed by DEHS members.

It is all too easy to lose information on individuals, so that their contribution becomes forgotten, and this month we present three different ways of presenting personal material – all equally welcome to **eDEN** and to researchers. The first is a memoir of a colleague, in this case **Les Hayward's memoir of "Spenny", Harold Spencer**, with some intriguing Secret Service connections which should not be lost to history. We follow this with the tribute paid to **John Robert 'JR' Mills** by his sons **Nick and Philip Mills**, with the personal photographs which can illuminate historical articles but are so often lacking. Third comes **Prof Malcolm Baird's** further research on **Jan Forman**, who has figured in DEHS publications previously as one of John Logie Baird's 'bright boys'.

We move on to 'something completely different', as Monty Python might say – the other end of the scale from H2S, the **radio aids surrounding barrage balloon defences**. **Peter Garwood** of the **Barrage Balloon Reunion Club** www.bbrclub.org/ - a site well worth visiting and a body covering a neglected area of history worthy of support - has kindly allowed a reprint of a most useful introduction, and we then reproduce the Air Publication on the Barrage Balloon warning set '**Squeaker**' **T1199**, continuing then with the more unusual tale of **Balloon Command's boat mounted barrage balloons** and the transceivers used for inter-communication between the drifters involved, the **TR 1150**. **Brian Audric**, in a little-known paper from the **Birmingham University 2nd Conference**

on **WW2 Meteorology** then tells of the natural hazard of thunderstorms to the barrage balloons, and of the **radio aids used to locate and track the lightning flashes** (shades of Watson Watt!).

We next print an equally little-known article, by **Prof Merriman** in the GPO Retired Staffs Newsletter, of his deception work on **Meacons** in 1940/1, and **Martin Bolton** then provides more original material on **training simulators by A M Uttley**. The essential work of getting urgent radar kit and spares to remote Naval locations in the UK was carried out by **WREN Couriers**, and **Clive Kidd** provides us with an appreciation of this forgotten but absolutely critical group. **'Jacey' Wise** then gives us the latest update on **Ukrainian radar**, and appeals for our help on the **Huff/Duff set FH4**.

We close Part I with a look at **England's last surface warship builder** (yes, you read that correctly, England's last surface warship builder), **Appledore** in **Devon**, and its work on warships for the Irish Navy.

Part II this month focusses on an aspect of EW we have not so far featured - the details of the **Mandrel Mk 2 jammer** which continued in use during much of the 1950s; and we print also the apparently less common **Chain Home** detailed photos of every aspect of that critical series of stations, from the Official **Photographic Record of Radar Stations (Ground)**, a document from which occasional photos appear, but not, so far as we have seen, the entire, and to researchers very useful, sequence.

Finally, as promised, we attach **the full eDEN Index 1 – 50** (in Word, for easy searching!).

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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