



# **e-DEFENCE ELECTRONICS NEWSLETTER**

The e-NEWSLETTER OF THE DEFENCE ELECTRONICS HISTORY SOCIETY  
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## **INTO THE FUTURE 2 – HAPPY (CHINESE) NEW YEAR**

While 20 January 2017 opened a new era in US and world politics with the inauguration of President Trump, let us not forget that 28 January 2017 also opened a New Year - for the Chinese, who have been holding exercises for their new carrier the *Liaoning* in the South China Sea. Officials told Reuter's that tests of weapons and equipment were "going to plan".

*eDEN* opens more peacefully, with a reminder of several "Save the Dates" for your diaries; this month we can include more details: our own **Autumn Symposium 2017**, to be held, we plan, on **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** again at **STEAM**, the Swindon railway museum which should allow members easy access by train, without the need to navigate Swindon's dire road system!; and to give you plenty of notice, on **Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>**, **Arthur Bauer** will be holding a special seminar on **Nachtfee**, the German night-fighter control system whose restoration was the subject of DEHS' Award to Arthur, in his superb museum in Duivendrecht, Amsterdam.

We then move on to our articles, beginning with the outstanding *Early Meteor Radio Astronomy at Jodrell Bank and Canterbury (New Zealand, not Kent!)* by our own **Grahame Fraser**, with our grateful thanks to Grahame and the Journal 'Southern Star' for permission to reproduce it. This fascinating article traces the early history of two radar pioneers, **John Banwell and Clifton Ellyett**, working with **Bernard Lovell**; then, linking once more to the earliest days of British radar, we last month printed a 1970s personal account by the last Atomic Weapons Superintendent of Orfordness on how he viewed the site and its history at that date, and this was promptly followed up by our own **Walter Blanchard PPRIN** providing a copy of a very useful updating article on Orford Ness by **Alan Pennington and Dave Kenny** which we now reprint. Our articles on the *AN/APQ-7 (Eagle) Scanner* also drew out very useful additional information, in this case from two sources - **Aryeh Ben-Ami** called my attention to a useful description of the aerial in Louis N. Ridenour's 'Radar System Engineering' of 1965; and **S/Ldr Mike Dean MBE** produced a great series of articles and pictures from US wartime materials, including a view of the manufacture of Eagle which is an aspect of which we do not see enough, and both sources are reproduced this month.

Readers will know that we try to give a balanced view of equipment used in conflict by all sides, and so we reprint the British immediate post-war view of two widely-differing German developments of World War 2 – the navigation system *Sonne*, better known in the UK as *Consol* by **John E Clegg**, and secondly the German *Magnetophon* tape-recorder by **R A Power**; to the latter, we provide balance by reproducing the War Office description of the contemporary *British Army Recorder with Playback, Wire, No 1*, and leave members to make their own judgements on relative merits.

We also appealed last month for information on the Fleet Air Arm beacon receiver *R1147*, and its reworked variant the *R1147B*. **Clive Kidd** wrote from HMS *Collingwood* to point to the article *CW Radio Aids to Homing and BA of Naval Aircraft* by **D Quinn & R D Holland**, and we reproduce this very interesting article in full – it is well worth the read!

Last month's Tailpiece closed that month's Part I with a look at the aerial arrays of the *USS Yorktown* in early 1945, noting the staggering difference from arrays of 1941. **Mike Dean** took up the challenge of identifying and summarising the uses of each array, and his comprehensive article '*Speaking of Antennas: the radars of USS Yorktown*' forms this month's Part I's last major article – many thanks, Mike! Even Thales' announcement this month is on the topic of Naval Early Warning, after which two **Tailpieces**, the first telling us of *Christmas 75 Years Ago* in an Admiralty memo; and the second of a family connection between one **Donald J Trump**, much in the news recently, and the *American BBRL, the British Branch of the Radiation Laboratory*, both items spotted by Mike.

Last month I also foreshadowed a series planned for 2017's eDENs, which will describe the *ground vehicles carrying defence electronics* of various types, beginning with the RAF whose Ground Radio and Radar Vehicles up to the Lightning era were portrayed in Air Publication 2276J. The series will go on to include Army and Navy radio, radar and electronics vehicles, which do tend to be rather shunned by military vehicles enthusiasts, other than of course our friends in VMARS.

I did also comment last month that one delight of DEHS is that there is always a good flow of material from members, and discovered the truth of the matter once again as within January to date a further 73 pages [!] of material has arrived from a variety of sources, and so yet again to keep this issue to a manageable size, I am holding over (and over, and over) my articles on the *Antikythera Mechanism*; on the newly opened manufacture of *Nixie tubes* via John Kaesehagen; and further work on the origin of the *CV valve Committee*.

Assuming that most members will read this on or shortly after 1 February, your Editor expects at that point to be on a Russian ice-breaker headed for South Georgia and the disused whaling station at Grytviken, to photo and record the WW1 British anti-submarine trawler *Viola III* (later the whaler *Dias*) which featured in *eDEN 14*, and then on to the Antarctic. No phone and little e-mail, so hold messages until end-Feb please!

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

Best regards all

Phil

Dr. Phil Judkins, DEHS Chairman.

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